



Contact Information:

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Biography:

Kathleen Staks is the Director of External Affairs for Guzman Energy. In this role, she leads stakeholder engagement, legislative and regulatory affairs, and strategic communications to help Guzman Energy meet its goal of transitioning communities across the country into a cleaner, more affordable energy future. Before joining Guzman Energy, Staks served as the Executive Director of the Colorado Energy Office under Governor Hickenlooper. She worked to broaden the influence and impact of the CEO, developing and securing bipartisan support for long-term funding for the office while expanding wide-reaching relationships across the energy spectrum. Prior to joining CEO, Staks served as the assistant director for energy and minerals at the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, where she developed and implemented oil and gas and mining policy issues across Colorado in coordination with the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, the Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety, and the Governor's Office. In addition to her experience at the State, Staks worked at Great Outdoors Colorado as the program director for Parks and Wildlife and Open Space, coordinating and developing policies and grant programs for the benefit of Coloradans through public and private land protection programs.

Solar or Storage Experience:

Guzman Energy is a wholesale power company looking to help rural communities transition to a cleaner, more affordable energy future. We work with rural co-ops, municipalities and Native American tribes to set and meet their own unique energy goals and priorities, customizing services and solutions for each one. As the demand for more local control and generation grows, the communities served by these entities need a lot more flexibility than they currently have. While we are not a developer or a company focused solely on either solar or storage, we have a strong interest in seeing policy changes that increase access to and affordability of renewable energy resources both at the local and utility scale levels.

My Priorities:

- 1) Increased competition in the electricity sector writ large. This is a sector that has remained largely the same for a very long time. Technology advances and market forces have created a lot of opportunities but policy and law have not yet caught up. The need for flexibility and options is growing with a looming climate crisis ahead of us.
- 2) Incentives for technology innovation and deployment. Decarbonization is going to need additional technology investment and innovation to achieve clean and carbon free energy goals. In addition, incentives for building and deploying wind and solar resources have been effective to developing large scale renewable energy projects. Extensions and even additional creative incentives at the state level for wind, solar and storage will continue to increase this momentum.
- 3) Easier and more affordable access to transmission (ultimately an RTO). One of the greatest challenges for a company like Guzman to develop renewable energy resources to serve our customers is the individual ownership and management of the transmission system.

My Strengths:

One of my greatest strengths is the relationships I have built over my career. I believe that when done well, broad stakeholder engagement strengthens results. I think my connections and ability to engage with a diverse group of people to understand the various viewpoints will help strengthen policy positions and work and will help COSSA be as prepared to address criticism and build support.

I consider myself a good communicator, starting with listening. Engaging on a board in a meaningful way requires listening and willingness to engage in productive, solution-oriented discussion. I enjoy collaborating with a group and learning from others.

While my subject matter expertise is not specifically solar or storage, I think having a perspective from a person and company whose business model includes increasing the amount of solar and storage deployed on the board would be extremely valuable. I am a dedicated learner and welcome the opportunity to engage on new topics and challenges.