

STATE CAPITOL

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

September 8, 2023

Alice Busching Reynolds, President
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Busching Reynolds:

As members of the California State Legislature we are writing to express our strong support for the community solar and storage Net Value Billing Tariff (NVBT) proposal put forth by the Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA) and supported by a diverse group of parties, as it most closely aligns with the intentions of Assembly Bill (AB) 2316.

As outlined in the bill, the intent of AB 2316 is to consolidate, eliminate, or modify existing statewide community solar and storage programs that are ineffectively providing access to community renewable energy, and to modify or create a new cost-effective program to access for low-income Californians, on or before July 1, 2024, if the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) determines that such a program would be beneficial to ratepayers. New programs should also incorporate storage to address the net-peak, support high-quality workforce development, enable Title 24 compliance, and take advantage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

The California Energy Commission (CEC) has previously reported that the state is likely to experience continued shortfalls of 1,800 MW through 2025, with the potential for shortages of up to 10,000 MW when considering extreme weather and fire events. As you are aware, transmission-scale renewables face significant siting, interconnection, and transmission challenges – highlighted by a recent request by investor owned utilities to extend their procurement to comply with the IRP until 2027. Small, distribution-sited community solar and storage projects have incredible potential as we modernize and expand our transmission system. These projects will be essential to a successful energy transition while ensuring that renters and low-income Californians are afforded the same opportunity to participate and reduce utility bills through distributed energy resources as wealthy homeowners.

With the application window for the Solar For All funding set to close on October 12, 2023, we urge the CPUC to issue a final decision in time to influence the Environmental Protection Agency's awards for which 43 states, D.C. and Puerto Rico will compete, to ensure that California can access federal grant funding made available through the IRA.

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CCSA's proposal (1) is the most cost-effective proposal, (2) expands access to Californian's most vulnerable residents by mandating 51% of each project for low-income customers, (3) minimizes rate impacts to non-participating subscribers, and (4) will quickly deploy solar-powered battery projects that can provide power when our grid needs it most.

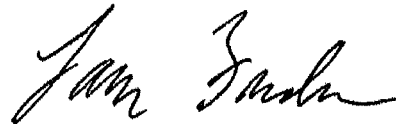
For these reasons, we believe the NVBT proposal most closely matches the intentions laid out in AB 2316, and is the best option to set California up to meet its clean energy goals, sustainably and equitably.

We urge the CPUC to adopt CCSA's NVBT proposal and to proceed with timely implementation of this program.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER M. WARD
Assemblymember, 78th District



LAURA FRIEDMAN
Assemblymember, 44th District



ANNA CABALLERO
Senator, 14th District



LENA A. GONZALEZ
Senator, 33rd District



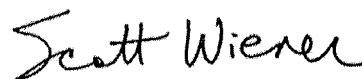
WENDY CARILLO
Assemblymember, 52nd District



ASH KALRA
Assemblymember, 25th District



AL MURATSUCHI
Assemblymember, 66th District

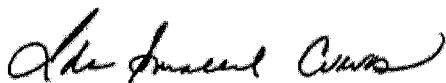


SCOTT WIENER
Senator, 11th District

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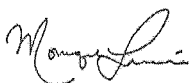
ELOISE GOMEZ REYES
Assemblymember, 50th District



LOLA SMALLWOOD CUEVAS
Senator, 28th District



JUAN CARILLO
Assemblymember, 39rd District



MONIQUE LIMON
Senator, 19th District



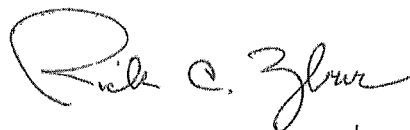
BUFFY WICKS
Assemblymember, 14th District



BEN ALLEN
Senator, 24th District



GREGG HART
Assemblymember, 37th District



RICK CHAVEZ ZBUR
Assemblymember, 51st District



JOSH BECKER
Senator, 13th District



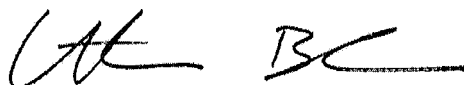
HENRY STERN
Senator, 27th District



JOHN LAIRD
Senator, 17th District



MIKE GIPSON
Assemblymember, 65th District



CATHERINE BLAKESPEAR
Senator, 38th District