

Governor Gavin Newsom  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Letter in Support of an Alternate Decision to Revise California's Net Metering Program  
[CPUC Docket #: R.20-08-020]

Dear Governor Newsom and Commissioners:

Thank you for your continued leadership to ensure that California remains a global center for clean energy investment and innovation. For decades, California has been the birthplace of cutting-edge companies offering climate solutions to the rest of the world. This has attracted billions of dollars of investment into California and has helped to bolster the state's economy. With your support, California can remain a global leader in clean energy. However, this requires the continuation of California's stable investment environment, where policy and business certainty provide the financial community the confidence it needs to make long term investments in the state.

We are writing to express our concern with the California Public Utility Commission's (CPUC) proposed decision issued on December 13<sup>th</sup> to revise California's net metering program (NEM), and urge you to work with the CPUC to issue an alternate decision more in line with the proposed changes to the NEM program submitted in the proceeding by the California Solar and Storage Association (CALSSA), the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), and Vote Solar.

Net metering has been a foundational policy in California for decades, providing the stability needed to attract significant investment and bring distributed solar and storage to scale, resulting in the creation of thousands of jobs and providing environmental and grid benefits to the state.

Upon initial review, we are concerned that if the proposed changes to California's net metering program are approved, distributed solar and storage projects would largely be unfinanceable in most parts of the state, putting solar and storage out of reach for most Californians at a time when we are seeing a significant increase in adoption by low-moderate income households.

While we recognize that policies must evolve to reflect the state's needs, it is imperative that such changes are done in a methodical and thoughtful manner to allow markets to adjust accordingly. The dramatic and abrupt changes proposed by the Commission would result in immediate market disruption and would significantly chill new investment in distributed solar and storage in the state. The following proposed changes are of particular concern:

- **Grid Participation Charge:** The imposition of an \$8/kW/month charge on solar customers would make solar projects uneconomic for most residential customers.
- **Volatile Export Rate:** The significant reduction and volatility of the proposed export rate that solar customers are paid for exporting clean power to the grid would render most residential, commercial, and public sector projects non-financeable.
- **Changes for Existing Customers:** The proposal to retroactively change the rules for existing customers would significantly undermine investor confidence in California's energy market going forward.

California is poised to lead the United States in clean energy deployment this decade. This means billions of dollars of new investment in the state, as well as the creation of thousands of new jobs to continue growing California's clean energy workforce. The proposed changes to California's net metering program would place this opportunity in jeopardy and put solar out of reach for most Californians.

We urge the Commission to issue an alternate proposed decision as soon as possible that reflects the changes to the NEM program submitted in the proceeding by the California Solar and Storage Association (CALSSA), the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), and Vote Solar.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Andrew Behar, CEO

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