



Our mission

To inspire, align, and mobilize action in response to the climate crisis. We work with business, government, youth and the broader community to advance practical, science-based solutions for significant greenhouse gas emission reductions.

Board of Directors

Efren Carrillo, President
Larry Robinson, Vice President
Jim McGreen, Secretary
Jonathan Weintraub, CPA, Treasurer
Jane Bender
Venise Curry, MD
Tim Holmes, P.E.
Terea Macomber, MBA
Carl Mears, PhD
Aaron Schreiber-Stainthorp
Susan Thomas
Jessica Wentz, Esquire
Ann Hancock, Executive Director

Strategic Advisors

Peter Barnes, Co-founder,
Working Assets
Dave Brennan, City Manager (Retired)
Rick Brown, TerraVerde Renewable Partners
Jeff Byron, CA Energy Commissioner (Retired)
Ernie Carpenter, County Supervisor (Retired)
Kimberly Clement, Attorney
Connie Coddling, Developer
Joe Como, Former Director, CA Office of
Ratepayer Advocates
Andy Ferguson, Communications
John Garn, Business Consultant
Elizabeth C. Herron, PhD, Writer
Hunter Lovins, President,
Natural Capitalism Solutions
Alan Strachan, Developer
Herb Williams, Government Relations
Shirlee Zane, County Supervisor

Science & Technical Advisors

Fred Euphrat, PhD
Dorothy Freidel, PhD
Lorenzo Kristov, PhD
Edward C. Myers, M.S.Ch.E.
Edwin Orrett, P.E.
John Rosenblum, PhD
Zeno Swijtink, PhD
Greg Thomson
Alexandra von Meier, PhD
Mathis Wackernagel, PhD
Ken Wells, E.I.T.
Ai-Chu Wu, PhD

Contact

www.climateprotection.org
P.O. Box 3785, Santa Rosa, CA 95402
707-525-1665

April 5, 2019

Assemblymember Chris Holden, Chair
Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee
State Capitol, Room 5132
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 56 (Garcia) – Oppose

Dear Assemblymember Holden and Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Center for Climate Protection (Center) to oppose AB 56. The Center is a nonprofit organization founded in 2001 with a mission to reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) everywhere. The Centers' combined participants and subscribers among our several programs adds up to nearly 10,000 individuals.

AB 56 would authorize the CPUC and the California Energy Commission to jointly establish the California Clean Electricity Authority, a nonprofit, public benefit corporation and empower it to undertake procurement of electricity on behalf of retail customers of electrical corporations, community choice aggregators, and electric service providers in support of certain policy objectives.

We are particularly concerned with this bill as it relates to Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs). The Center has worked in support of CCA since 2005 since our analysis has concluded, and as is being proven on a daily basis by the 19 operation CCAs, that CCA is the single most powerful tool available to local governments to rapidly reduce GHGs. If enacted as currently written, AB 56 would undermine CCA statutory procurement autonomy, one of the fundamental strengths, and reasons for existing, of Community Choice.

AB 56 impacts CCAs in at least three ways:

- It threatens CCA procurement autonomy;
- It threatens to obstruct CCAs' ability to decarbonize and build electricity system resilience by deploying distributed energy resources and non-wires alternatives;
- It may add customer costs for services that a CCA may not need or be able to use.

While ostensibly intended to address residual supply needs or market failures, the authority granted to the new Authority is so broad that the Authority could be used for any purpose the CPUC or CEC see fit to use it for regarding procurement. Recovery of procurement costs with a nonbypassable charge on the distribution side of the bill also creates a cost shift between distribution and generation rates even if collected based on usage.

For these reasons we respectfully submit this letter of opposition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Hancock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ann Hancock, Executive Director

cc:

Hon. Eduardo Garcia, California Assembly, District 56