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July 3, 2019

The Honorable Ben Hueso
Chair, Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Commerce
State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: AB 56 (Garcia) – Oppose

Dear Senator Hueso,

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.

We are particularly concerned with this bill as it relates to Community Choice Agencies (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.

Despite recent amendments adopted on the Assembly Floor, AB 56 in its current form still significantly expands the CPUC's energy procurement authority, allowing the CPUC to order energy procurement based on shortcomings in the Integrated Resource Plan submitted by Investor Owned Utilities, Direct Access providers, and CCAs. The bill would allow the CPUC to require procurement on any perceived deficiency for 10 to 12 years into the future, far too long for providers to respond to shifts in the market or pay competitive prices.

We believe this bill will limit the flexibility CCAs need to provide the clean energy Californians depend on, while limiting local control and leading to higher costs for ratepayers.

For these reasons we respectfully submit this letter of opposition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Hancock", written in a cursive style.

Ann Hancock, Executive Director

CC:

Members & staff, Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Commerce
Hon. Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia