



September 18, 2020

Genevieve Shiroma, Commissioner
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 95814

Dear Commissioner Shiroma,

As you and your fellow Commissioners advance rulemaking around microgrids and resiliency (R.1909009), it is critical that the urgent needs of essential businesses like grocery stores and suppliers are taken into account. Since the onset of our current public health crisis, grocery stores and their employees have been on the frontlines serving communities throughout the state. It is imperative that grocery stores remain open and able to meet Californians' vital needs. We need state leaders to prioritize inclusive energy policies that will increase access to clean, customer-owned microgrid solutions that enable essential businesses to continue serving their communities during multi-day public safety power shutoffs and rolling blackouts, like those we experienced in August.

For more than 120 years, the California Grocers Association has served as the voice of the state's grocery community, representing over 300 retailers operating more than 6,000 brick-and-mortar stores and approximately 150 grocery supply companies throughout California.

As part of its rulemaking, the Commission should adopt a new, standardized, tech-neutral tariff for customer-owned microgrids that empowers essential businesses to choose and install the clean energy solutions that best fit the specific needs of their customers and communities. Many businesses, including grocers in fire-prone areas of the state, are prepared to invest in these microgrids to provide safe and reliable power, but they need a regulatory framework that supports access and choice and doesn't penalize them taking steps to ensure their own energy security.

By providing a streamlined, cost-effective path forward for customer-owned microgrids, the Commission can propel the immediate development and deployment of the clean, resiliency-enhancing resources needed to support safer and healthier California communities.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Ronald Fong
President & CEO, California Grocers Association

cc. Marybel Batjer, President, California Public Utilities Commission
Martha Guzman-Aceves, Commissioner