



April 14, 2021

Senator Ben Hueso
Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Hueso:

We are writing to express our support for SB 99, which will empower local governments to create locally-driven community energy resilience plans based on clean energy technologies.

Climate-induced power outages during 2020 and 2019 cost the California economy billions and are expected to continue. In response, homeowners, businesses, and utilities have been rapidly investing in new fossil fuel generators – expenditures which run counter to California’s environmental goals. With the state facing increasingly frequent climate-driven grid disruptions, it is more critical than ever that California invest in the development of locally-driven community energy resilience based on clean energy.

SB 99 directs the California Energy Commission to create a technical assistance grant program that will support local governments in creating community energy resilience plans. Energy resilience is inherently local and approval for siting of new distributed energy projects is necessarily jurisdictional to local governments. Community energy resilience plans will outline the strategy that each local government will use to maintain a reliable supply of electricity, a necessary planning step that will make it possible to utilize new federal, state, and private funds for needed build-out of local energy resilience infrastructure.

SB 99 prioritizes allocation of new community energy resilience planning funds to vulnerable communities. Vulnerable communities suffer disproportionately from air pollution and high rates of respiratory disease, problems which are being exacerbated by installation of new diesel generation. The consequences of losing power, like the loss of a refrigerator full of food, are significantly magnified in vulnerable households.

With the passage of SB 99, California will take an important step towards creating a more decentralized electricity system which is clean, affordable, reliable, equitable and safe.

Sincerely,

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The Climate Center

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Senior Director, Grid Integration
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CC: Members, Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
Senator Bill Dodd