

Don't Break Contracts of Two Million Solar Consumers

Stop Blaming Consumers. Start Fixing What's Really Driving High Rates: Utility Spending & Profits

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CALPIRG

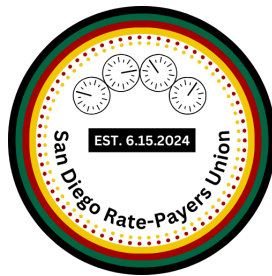


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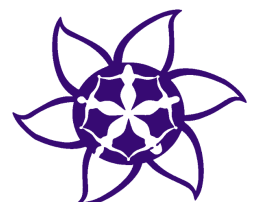
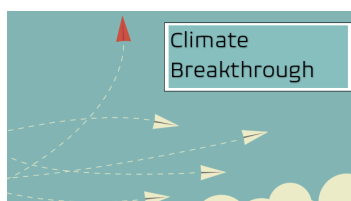


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ORANGE COUNTY, CA CHAPTER



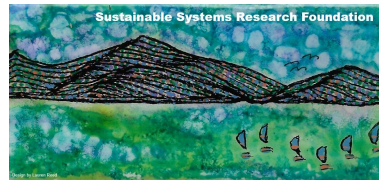
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FECADAMIN
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Asociaciones de Michoacán

The Honorable Cottie Petrie Norris
1021 O Street, Suite 8120
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Petrie-Norris;

We are writing to strongly oppose [AB 942](#), which would break long-standing contracts on two million solar consumers who signed up for solar before April 2023.

Californians have been active players in building a clean energy powered future, with two million customer-sited solar systems now [producing around twenty percent of our state's electricity needs](#) on California's hottest days. These consumers signed a contract, the terms of which were set by the state of California. Reneging on those contractual agreements would harm millions of people who answered California's call to invest in clean energy as a way to reduce peak demand, stabilize rates, and clean up the air. We need you to stand up for consumers and reject this irresponsible bill.

California has repeatedly upheld the state's decision to honor rooftop solar contracts for the twenty-year life of the solar panels. [The CPUC's own consumer guide](#) requires solar contracts under the state's net metering policy be guaranteed for twenty years. When customers took the risk to invest in solar, they signed a [state mandated legal agreement with their utility](#) that specified [in the terms and conditions](#) that the rooftop solar system can stay on the net metering plan for twenty years from the time of interconnecting the solar panels to the electric grid. This is based on a long standing policy that solar customers have the same terms for twenty years, or the expected life of the solar system, affirmed by Governor Jerry Brown in his [signing letter for SB 327 in 2013](#), and the CPUC in [2014](#) and again in [2022](#).

The CPUC's new proposal, to break energy contracts mid-stream, would be patently unfair. It would punish the very people who California encouraged to invest in solar energy. And it would gut consumer confidence and trust in government, right when we need more Californians to make the choice to invest in clean energy technologies.

California should address the cause of high electricity rates, which is out of control utility spending to maximize profit.

[The data is clear](#) that more than 90% of the rate hikes over the last decade are driven by increased utility spending. PG&E, SoCal Edison, and SDG&E spending on poles and wires increased by 300% over the last twenty years, even though peak

electricity demand was flat. Only 12% of that spending was for wildfire mitigation, according to the utilities' own rate filings.

To address rising rates, California must focus on what's really wrong with our energy system: uncontrolled utility spending and record utility profits. We'll never control rates or meet our goals for clean, reliable energy if we don't get at these roots of the problem.

The utilities already get a state authorized 10% or higher profit from every dollar they spend on poles and wires. The [CPUC is considering a new proposal to increase these already excessive profit rates](#), despite [record utility profits](#) and evidence that this structure is creating a perverse incentive for them to spend more than necessary.

In contrast, California's two million rooftop solar consumers are saving all other ratepayers \$1.5 billion in 2024 alone according to [a study endorsed by more than a dozen of the top energy economists](#).

California leaders should stop blaming consumers for the errors and missteps of the state's private utility companies and the inability for the CPUC to rein in their out of control spending. Reneging on two million contracts would not only be unfair but it would reduce energy choices for consumers, and [threaten a promising solution](#) to rein in future costs.

Against a backdrop of out-of-control rate increases and a range of confusing utility bill fees and charges, California ratepayers are now threatened by a proposal to break California's promise on solar energy.

Unfortunately, instead of protecting consumers, California's chief cop on the beat—the Public Utilities Commission— is considering punishing them. Instead of focusing on what's really wrong with electric utilities—out of control spending and profit making on the backs of ratepayers—the CPUC is now pushing to break the contracts with two million solar homes, schools, and businesses. This would be a terrible move for California.

Please reject AB 942 and the CPUC's proposal to break 2 million rooftop solar customer contracts and urge them to focus on the real source of high rates: increased utility spending. AB 942 would increase rates, limit choice, derail the state's clean energy progress, erode public trust in government, and avoid the hard work of actually reforming our state's utility industry.

This is a crossroads moment for California: if the state is truly serious about tackling both air pollution, energy reliability and electricity rates, it will focus on utility spending and stand with consumers who need more choice, clean air, and more affordable energy.

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Todos Unidos

Federación de Guanajuatenses

Cafe Coop

FECAMIN (Federation of Clubs and Associations of Michoacanos in North America)
Anahuak Youth Soccer Association

Anahuak Youth Soccer Association

Federación de Clubes y Asociaciones

Federación Duranguenese USA

Organización Regional de Oaxaca Por El Respeto y La Defensa De Nuestra Cultura

Federación de Nayaritas en Estados Unidos

Federación de Clubes Colima

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