



June 25, 2025

The Honorable Josh Becker  
Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 3350  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Support of AB 44 (Schultz) – Electricity Affordability Through Load Shifting**

Dear Chair Becker,

We write to express strong support for Assembly Bill 44 by Assemblymember Schultz, which offers a practical, cost-saving improvement to California's energy planning toolkit by clarifying and strengthening the California Energy Commission's existing load modification process.

California ratepayers are increasingly burdened by rising electricity costs, much of which is driven by growing wholesale capacity (resource adequacy) obligations. At the same time, promising opportunities exist to use distributed energy technologies and demand management strategies to cost-effectively reduce or shift peak electricity usage. AB 44 would ensure these solutions are more transparent, accessible, and usable by the state's load-serving entities.

Specifically, the bill requires the CEC to define and publish protocols for how demand-side technologies can be used to modify electric demand forecasts—forecasts that directly inform how much capacity load-serving entities are required to procure. Greater transparency in this process will allow for more predictable and timely participation, reduce risk for those investing in load flexibility, and ultimately deliver savings to customers.

AB 44 also encourages the CEC to test and validate load-shifting technologies and explore expanded opportunities for demand modification. This approach enhances grid reliability, supports innovation, and delivers ratepayer value without compromising performance or

equity. It also aligns with California's broader efforts to retire aging fossil generation, expand the role of clean distributed resources, and increase flexibility in the state's energy system.

We applaud Assemblymember Schultz for bringing forward this smart, forward-looking legislation and respectfully urge your support for AB 44.

Sincerely,

Edson Perez, Senior Principal  
Advanced Energy United

Scott Murtishaw, Executive Director  
California Energy Storage Association (CESA)

Franco Ghadiri, Policy Representative  
Mainspring Energy

Stephanie Doyle, California Director  
Solar Energy Industries Association

Walker Wright, Vice President of Policy  
Sunrun

Ellie Cohen, CEO  
The Climate Center

cc: The Honorable Nick Schultz, California State Assembly  
Members, Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee  
Nidia Bautista, Chief Consultant, Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications  
Committee  
Kerry Yoshida, Senate Republican Caucus