















































A project of Center for Environmental Health







Rob Bonta California Attorney General 1300 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Attorney General Bonta:

We write to express our deep concern about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) attempt to dissolve the Solar for All program, including terminating our state's grant under that program. We urge you to use every tool at your disposal to push back against this unwarranted action that will harm families and small businesses across California.

In April 2024, the EPA announced that California would receive \$250 million under the Solar for All program. This award followed a rigorous and competitive application process led by the California Energy Commission (CEC), the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), and the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA), who proposed a program to expand access to low-cost distributed energy technologies for low-income and disadvantaged communities. While the EPA awarded funds to the CPUC, CEC, and LWDA with the goal of reducing energy costs for thousands of Californians, progress in implementing the program has been limited. To date, the agencies continue to coordinate with EPA and other partners, but key details and deployment plans remain pending, raising concerns about the timely and effective use of this historic federal investment.

California's Solar for All program is a historic investment in energy affordability and economic development. Thanks to this program thousands of households across California would gain access to low-cost, reliable solar energy that would lower their electricity bills each year – all while boosting grid resilience and promoting energy independence. Given the Trump Administration's stated commitment to lowering energy costs for all Americans, the proposed termination of California's Solar for All grant is baffling.

EPA's proposed termination could not come at a worse time for hardworking families and small businesses across California. Solar for All funds are exclusively designated for use in low-income, rural, and other disadvantaged communities where people are already struggling to make ends meet. In addition to these communities, these funds would serve Tribal Nations within the state. These investments are required to slash household electricity costs by 20 percent, lowering electricity bills for each household that benefits from the program by \$400 each year.

Across the United States, electricity rates are rapidly rising. Since 2018, the average price of electricity sold by California's biggest electric utilities rose by <u>over 40 percent</u>. Energy demand from data centers and extreme heat waves is projected to further strain the grid – and people in California are paying the price. Investments made through California's Solar for All program are a vital tool for combatting these skyrocketing energy prices.

Moreover, while California has been awarded these funds, much of the work to implement the Solar for All program is still in the early stages. The CPUC, CEC, and LWDA have begun initial planning and coordination efforts, but significant portions of the funding have yet to be deployed to benefit communities. Terminating the grant now would risk squandering a major opportunity and could undermine the early investments of time and resources already made toward building out a program intended to lower energy costs and expand clean energy access for hardworking families and small businesses across the state.

EPA's attempt to terminate California's Solar for All program is misguided and unjustified. If EPA succeeds, everyday people across California will be forced to foot the bill through higher electricity bills. We urge you to take swift action to protect consumers in California from this shortsighted powergrab – and we thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Andrea Leon-Grossmann Deputy Program Director - West Vote Solar

Cheryl Auger
President
Ban SUP (Single Use Plastic)

Derek Chernow Western Regional Director Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA)

Janet Cox CEO Climate Action California

Chance Cutrano
Director of Programs
Resource Renewal Institute

Neal Desai

Senior Pacific Regional Director
National Parks Conservation Association

Catherine Dodd PhD RN

Health Advisor

FACTS Families Advocating for Chemical

and Toxics Safety

Stephanie Doyle

Director, State Affairs, California

Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA)

Jack Eidt Co-Founder

SoCal 350 Climate Action

Emely Garcia Legislative Advocate

NRDC

Robert Gould, MD

President

San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social

Responsibility

Woody Hastings

Phase Out Polluting Fuels Program Director

The Climate Center

Suzanne Hume

Educational Director & Founder

cleanearth4kids.org

Susan Jordan

Executive Director

California Coastal Protection Network

Roger Lin

Senior Attorney

Center for Biological Diversity

Michael Mulligan

Legislative Analyst

NorCal Elders Climate Action

Faith Myhra

Organizing Member

Protect Playa Now

Monica Palmeira

Associate Director for Economic Equity

The Greenlining Institute

Wes Reutimann

Deputy Director

Active San Gabriel Valley

Ben Schwartz

Policy Manager

Clean Coalition

Dave Shukla

Policy Manager

Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy

Andrea Vega

Southern California Senior Organizer

Food & Water Watch

Esperanza Vielma

Board President

EJCW

Esperanza Vielma

Co-founder

CEEE

Catherine Zingg

Policy Director

Tribal Energy Alternatives

GRID Alternatives

Mothers Out Front