

September 8, 2017  
The Honorable Chris Holden, Chair  
Assembly Utilities & Energy Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5132  
Sacramento, CA 95814



**Re: AB 813—OPPOSE**

Dear Assemblymember Chris Holden,

The [California Alliance for Community Energy](http://www.cacommunityenergy.org) writes to oppose AB 813.

The Alliance is a statewide coalition of organizations, initiatives, and individuals that supports and defends Community Choice energy programs in California that advance local clean energy for the environmental, economic, and social justice benefit of our communities.

AB 813 requires that the Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) sign renewable energy contracts, and pass on a share of the costs of this procurement to Community Choice customers through a non-bypassable charge. Moreover, mandating IOU procurement of additional renewable energy at this time is unjustified and threatens to undermine Community Choice energy programs in California.

AB 813 would force the IOUs to buy renewable energy in long-term contracts at current rates. Because the price of solar, wind, and battery storage is projected to continue falling each year, it is very likely that even with current federal subsidies, these long-term contracts will result in higher costs to California ratepayers – and certainly to Community Choice customers, who will be saddled with higher Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) fees.

Community Choice energy programs were made possible by AB 117 passed in 2002 to provide reliable, clean and affordable power while addressing the local needs of their communities. They have collectively provided over 1000 MW of new renewable capacity in California, while offering cost-savings to their customers. AB 813 contravenes the intent of AB 117, and is also contrary to the intent of SB 790 passed in 2011.

For the above reasons, we find AB 813 not only contrary to the intent of existing California State law, but also an unjustified mandate that will lead to IOU over-procurement of renewable energy, increased PCIA fees, and higher electricity rates for both IOU and CCA customers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Al Weinrub". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Al Weinrub

Coordinator, California Alliance for Community Energy

Cc:

Senate Pro Tem Kevin de Leon  
Senator Ben Hueso, Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Jay Dickenson, Chief Consultant, Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications  
Kip Lipper, Senate Policy  
Members of the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee  
Senate Republican Consultant  
Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon  
Kellie Smith, Committee Consultant