



May 15, 2024

The Honorable Anna Caballero  
 Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
 1021 O Street, Suite 7620  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Senate Bill 1374 (Becker)  
 SUPPORT

Dear Senator Caballero,

The School Energy Coalition (SEC) and UndauntedK12 are proud to co-sponsor SB 1374 (Becker) *Self-Generation for Multi-Meter Utility Customers*, and to be joined by these esteemed partners from the education, housing, energy, and environmental sectors in supporting the bill. We ask for your support of SB 1374 when it comes before you in the Senate Committee on Appropriations on May 16, 2024.

This bill would eliminate discrimination against commercial utility customers by directing the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to restore on-site netting for commercial customers, including multifamily housing, agriculture, schools, colleges, universities, and other public agencies. Schools and other commercial accounts should be allowed to consume energy produced on-site without being forced to sell it to utilities at a low rate and buy it back from them at a higher rate.

The CPUC's December 2023 VNEM/NEMA ruling was inconsistent with its earlier decisions by prohibiting self-consumption for most multi-meter customers. This decision makes it economically unfeasible for schools, community colleges, universities, water agencies, municipal facilities, farms, and shopping centers to install photovoltaic systems (solar) and battery storage. The ruling also hinders installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in multifamily properties, a critical component of the state's ZEV transportation goals, and contributes to higher housing costs for residents.

This has an outsize impact on the education sector because energy expenditures are already the second largest component of school district budgets. Further, since schools cannot charge fees to recoup increased operational costs, the higher energy costs resulting from the ruling take money out of the classroom. Schools need affordable solar and storage to prevent disruptions in education, nutrition, and payroll caused by frequent Public Safety Power Shutoffs, wildfires, and other conditions becoming the new normal as our climate changes. They also need affordable, reliable power to serve their communities as emergency shelters and staging grounds for emergency response.

SB 1374 will advance the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals, enhance energy resiliency, and eliminate discrimination against commercial utility customers. We respectfully request your support of this bill which restores fairness and removes a barrier to our ability to bring about California's clean energy future.

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance. I can be reached at [nchairesespinoza@m-w-h.com](mailto:nchairesespinoza@m-w-h.com).

Sincerely,

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