



July 8, 2025

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

RE: Please stop AB 942 (Calderon) and keep California a beacon of hope for clean energy

Dear Sen. Becker,

On behalf of leading state and national environmental organizations, we urge you in the strongest possible terms to do everything in your power to keep AB 942 (Calderon) from advancing.

Already a leader on clean energy, there's still much more that California can do to pioneer more sustainable and less environmentally damaging power sources. We thank you for all that you have done and are doing along those lines.

However, AB 942 is the antithesis of good leadership. It would retroactively break contracts and punish millions of working- and middle-class Californians who have simply invested in clean energy.

California must be a champion of clean energy. This is especially important given the major backsliding on solar and wind happening right now in Washington D.C. California cannot afford to follow Washington's lead by also dismantling the policies that have made rooftop solar in our state broadly accessible to all consumers. But that's exactly what AB 942 would do.

AB 942 would irreparably damage public trust in the state's environmental commitments. Under California's initial net metering policies, or NEM 1.0/2.0, homeowners made significant financial investments in solar with the promise of long-term contracts that were explicitly designed to last 20 years regardless of changes in ownership of the property. By retroactively revoking those terms, AB 942 would set a dangerous precedent: that California is willing to break its word to consumers.

This betrayal is not only unethical — it will also further harm the rooftop solar market, lower home values, and undermine consumer confidence in other green energy initiatives carried out by the state.

The stakes could not be higher. California's climate goals are already at risk and the country needs political and policy leadership on clean energy. Rooftop solar plays a vital role in cutting emissions from the electricity sector, which is the state's third biggest source of carbon pollution, according to the California Air Resources Board. Without the expansion of affordable, decentralized rooftop solar, climate and clean energy targets are simply unattainable.

AB 942 flies in the face of energy affordability. Over 60% of the households that installed rooftop solar under NEM 1.0/2.0 are middle- and working-class families drawn to the promise of real relief on their monthly utility bills. AB 942 would strip them of those benefits. And it would do so while continuing to allow the state's investor-owned utilities to pass unnecessary and expensive infrastructure costs onto millions of struggling ratepayers, who already pay some of the highest electricity bills in the country.

The utilities falsely claim AB 942 is about fairness. But there's nothing fair about breaking contracts and punishing families who did exactly what the state encouraged them to do: invest in clean energy. Under your leadership, California should be having an honest and fact-led conversation about electricity costs and true solutions to affordability.

We acknowledge and appreciate your long-standing commitment to climate action and policies that advance clean energy. As chair of the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee, you have the power to stop AB 942 from advancing further. We respectfully ask that you use that authority now.

Amid federal attacks on climate and clean energy, our state must lead. Let's not hand the fossil fuel industry another victory by reversing the state's best-known clean energy success story.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Del Chiaro
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Environmental Working Group

Jenn Engstrom
State Director
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Matthew Baker
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