



January 26, 2022

Dear Governor Newsom,

Look up. Rooftop solar and battery storage today is the most progressive way forward to help the working and middle class afford energy, decrease wear and tear on the existing, centralized grid, ensure the growth of renewable energy, and provide energy security.

You pride yourself on being a governor of “firsts.” If you do not reject major components of the CPUC’s proposed net metering decision (proceeding R.20-08-020), you will make California last in terms of solar incentives —and worse, set a precedent for other states to stop the expansion of rooftop solar in its tracks. You must ensure that the decision leads to expansion of rooftop solar and solar becomes more affordable, not less, for working class and middle-class people.

If you are to claim the mantle of climate leadership, your reformulated proposal must:

- Reject a monthly solar penalty fee. No one should ever have to pay a solar tax to install rooftop solar. Bad behavior should be taxed, not good behavior.
- The net metering credit consumers receive for selling excess power back to the grid should remain high enough to serve as an incentive for most working class and middleclass people to make the investment in rooftop solar. Real-world consumers should make this a straightforward decision. Heed the behavior of consumers not computer models produced by utilities and their consultants. See: <https://www.latimes.com/environment/newsletter/2022-01-20/should-california-slash-rooftop-solar-incentives-we-took-a-survey-boiling-point>
- Honor the commitment that the state has already made to existing solar consumers. Existing solar users are currently protected from changes to net metering rules for 20 years from the date their system turned on. The CPUC is now proposing to reduce that protection to 15 years and eliminate the protection altogether if you accept their storage battery rebate. That amounts to a bait and switch.

The alleged “cost shift” claimed by major investor-owned utilities and the CPUC is a red herring. The argument is designed to divide people and deflect attention away from the real drivers of utility bills—long distance power lines, utility profits, and poor oversight by your CPUC. In fact, rooftop solar and batteries reduce the cost of the electrical grid to the benefit of all ratepayers, give all consumers a shot at controlling their energy bills, and ensure that the lights stay on during utility blackouts.

Since California is not only the most populous state in the country, but its decisions serve as a precedent for the rest of the nation, we urge you to lead California to be first, not last, on rooftop solar and battery storage. Look up, Governor, and save rooftop solar.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Court".

Jamie Court

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liza Tucker".

Liza Tucker