



June 28, 2013

Via E-mail

California Energy Commission  
Dockets Office, MS-4  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512  
docket@energy.ca.gov



**RE: Docket No. 13-IEP-1 -- Comments on Petition for Societal Cost-Benefit Evaluation of California's Net Energy Metering Program**

Dear Chair Weisenmiller,

Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) supports the petition submitted on June 5, 2013 by the American Lung Association in California and other parties requesting that the California Energy Commission (CEC) perform a societal cost-benefit evaluation of California's Net Energy Metering Program. We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on this important issue.

CBE is a statewide environmental health and justice organization with the mission to build people's power in California communities of color and low income communities to achieve environmental health and justice by preventing and reducing pollution and building green, healthy and sustainable communities and environments. CBE has worked extensively on local, regional and statewide policy and permitting issues to promote the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Net metering is a foundational policy that is helping achieve California's clean energy and climate change goals, including the goal set by Governor Brown to install 12 GW of local renewable distributed generation by 2020 and the CEC's goals for the New Solar Homes Partnership and Zero Net Energy for new homes and commercial buildings. By providing fair credit for the benefits solar systems provide to the grid and other ratepayers, net metering allows homeowners, schools and other public entities, and businesses to control their electricity costs and invest the savings in other priorities.

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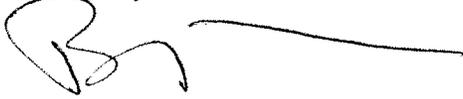
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Net metering also has helped leverage billions of dollars in private investment in California and helped to create more than 43,000 solar jobs in the state – one of the fastest growing sectors of our economy. In addition, net metering provides air quality benefits by reducing the need for fossil fuel peaker plants. These and other societal benefits should be quantified for consideration by policy-makers, and this data can supplement the forthcoming cost-effectiveness evaluation of net metering by the California Public Utilities Commission, which has taken the lead in implementing the state’s net metering law.

We respectfully request that you grant the petition and perform the societal cost-benefit study requested by the petitioners.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B Fazeli', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bahram Fazeli  
Policy Director

cc: Suzanne Korosec (Suzanne.Korosec@energy.ca.gov)