



Californians for Energy Choice

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CA Assemblymember Phil Ting Criticized For Attacking Community Solar & Green Jobs To Protect Fossil Fuel-Based Monopoly Utilities, With Assembly Bill AB 1110

San Francisco, CA, August 11, 2016 – Today, the consumer and community clean energy watchdog, Californians for Energy Choice, called out California Assemblymember Phil Ting for attacking community-based clean energy programs and undermining solar jobs in order to protect fossil fuel-based monopoly utilities like PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E with Assembly Bill AB 1110. The group said AB 1110 masquerades as an environmental bill while it undercuts rooftop solar and obscures the carbon emissions from the monopoly utilities' natural gas operations. The California Senate may vote on AB 1110 as early as Monday, August 15, 2016.

The group cited alarming provisions in AB 1110, pointing out that:

- By not allowing rooftop solar electricity to be labeled greenhouse gas free, AB 1110 would be a solar job killer, undermining local rooftop solar in the state and thousands of potential green jobs.
- AB 1110 has no mandates to require a full lifecycle account of all greenhouse gas emissions of electricity generated using dirty natural gas. Incidents like the Aliso Canyon methane release and other fugitive emissions are known to be substantial, yet are not required in greenhouse gas emission calculations under the bill.
- AB 1110 has language that allows the monopoly utilities to obscure their greenhouse gas emissions by claiming that being required to show more detailed greenhouse gas numbers would force them to reveal "trade secrets."

The group also noted the appearance of a clear conflict of interest, highlighting that:

- According to the campaign donation watchdog Maplight, Assemblymember Ting has been the 7th highest recipient (out of 80 California assemblymembers) of contributions from the specific California electrical trade organizations that have repeatedly attacked local clean energy programs on behalf of the monopoly utilities. (See: <http://maplight.org/california/interest/LC150>)

Californians for Energy Choice cited the extensive donations by proxies of the monopoly utilities to Ting's electoral campaigns as a troubling sign that Ting may be doing the bidding of the monopoly utilities to protect them from local, community-based clean energy competition.

Eric Brooks, co-coordinator of Californians for Energy Choice said, "As the 7th highest recipient (out of 80 California assemblymembers) of campaign cash from proxies of the dirty monopoly utilities, it is no surprise that Phil Ting has put forward AB 1110 to attack local community-based solar and protect the utilities from clean energy competition. AB 1110 is a solar job killer that allows the monopoly utilities, led by PG&E, to greenwash themselves and undermine local community-based clean energy. The bill cuts the legs out from under rooftop solar by not allowing it to be called greenhouse gas free. The bill has no mandate that all greenhouse gas emissions of natural gas electricity be counted, and it even contains a disturbing clause that allows the monopoly utilities to duck scrutiny and hide detailed greenhouse gas numbers by claiming this would somehow reveal 'trade secrets.'"

"Because this bill undermines community-based solar and obscures greenhouse gas emissions of natural gas power, it allows the fossil fuel heavy monopoly utilities to falsely claim that they sell cleaner energy than far superior local community providers -- such as the Community Choice programs currently delivering cleaner, less expensive electricity to Marin, Sonoma, Napa, and Contra Costa counties, and to the cities of San Francisco and Lancaster."

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