



California Wind Energy Association

March 26, 2024

The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris, Chair
Committee on Utilities and Energy
California State Assembly
1020 N Street, Room 408A
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1999 (Irwin) – OPPOSE

Dear Chair Petrie-Norris,

The California Wind Energy Association (CalWEA) respectfully opposes AB 1999 (Irwin). AB 1999 would undermine the ability of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to establish appropriate fixed charges on utility bills by imposing an arbitrary cap on such charges regardless of the factual record. Increased fixed charges are necessary to promote the electrification required to achieve California's greenhouse-gas-reduction goals by reducing the cost to operate electric cars, heat pumps, and other electric appliances that replace those that run on fossil-fuels.

Many costs embedded in utility bills, including wildfire-related costs, rooftop solar subsidies, and energy efficiency programs, are unrelated to electricity usage and should be shared equitably among all utility customers by removing them from per kilowatt-hour (kWh) rates and placing them in fixed charges. The income-graduated fixed charges that the CPUC is now considering will distribute these public policy costs based on customer income tiers to reduce the burden on low-income households. Fixed charges will also benefit those who live in hotter areas of the state where air conditioning is increasingly becoming a matter of life and death. Given California's relatively high utility rates, rates will still be sufficiently high to promote rooftop solar and energy efficiency measures.

For these reasons, CalWEA respectfully opposes AB 1999 and requests your "no" vote.

Sincerely,

Nancy Rader
Executive Director
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cc: The Honorable Jacqui Irwin
Honorable Members, AB 1999 Joint Authors
Honorable Members and Staff, Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee