

July 3, 2019



Protecting Marin Since 1934

The Honorable Ben Hueso
Chair, Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Commerce
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 56 (Garcia) – OPPOSE

Dear Assemblyman Hueso and members of the Committee:

The Marin Conservation League respectfully opposes AB 56, by Assemblymembers Garcia and Burke, which grants new powers to the California Public Utilities Commission which would directly impact the foundational procurement autonomy of community choice aggregators such as MCE Clean Energy. MCE and other CCAs have proven their ability to provide clean energy to their constituents and to lead in innovative programs directed toward reducing greenhouse gasses.

The Marin Conservation League for eighty-five years has lead efforts to preserve, protect and enhance the natural environment of Marin County and, with its over eight hundred members, has supported MCE since its inception in efforts to curtail climate change through reducing human emissions of greenhouse gasses.

As our for-profit utility model gives way to a more decentralized energy system, we recognize the need for some form of a state backstop to ensure during the transition period that all communities have access to electricity. MCE and other CCAs are supporting a limited central reliability authority to meet resource adequacy needs when gaps are left where no local providers are available.

The present bill would significantly expand the CPUC's procurement authority, in conflict with original CCA entitlements. While it would not limit the amount of energy the CPUC could procure on behalf of a CCA at the CCAs expense, it would allow the CPUC to require contracts extending 10 to 12 years into the future. This is far too long for providers to respond to shifts in today's rapidly evolving energy market. Moreover, this would give the CPUC rate-setting authority over CCAs, which would undermine the ability of local governments to administer CCAs as provided by law.

We oppose AB 56 and believe that it would unnecessarily and potentially harmfully limit the flexibility of load serving entities to provide clean energy by limiting local control and curtailing the ability of CCAs to innovate in reducing the causes of climate change.

Marin Conservation League urges a NO vote on AB 56.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda J. Novy".

Linda J. Novy
President, Marin Conservation League

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Wilson".

Doug Wilson
Chair, MCL's Climate Action Working Group

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