



ORA

*Office of Ratepayer Advocates
California Public Utilities Commission*

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June 28, 2017

Honorable Connie Leyva
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4061
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 366 (Leyva) – Support

Dear Senator Leyva:

The Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA) is the independent consumer advocate within the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). ORA's mission is to advocate for the lowest possible rates for customers of California's regulated utilities consistent with safe, reliable service levels and the state's environmental goals.

ORA supports SB 366, as amended on June 20, 2017, which would modify California's community solar program, known as the Green Tariff Shared Renewables (GTSR) program. The program is ideal for customers who for various reasons cannot install solar panels on their roofs, e.g. they do not have rooftops that are suitable for solar installation. However, as currently constructed, customers must pay a premium to participate. This unfortunately creates a barrier for low-income customers to participate.

SB 366 will help to increase participation in the GTSR program by low-income customers who are eligible for the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program or the Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) program. SB 366 will provide GHG auction revenues to offset the costs of the GTSR premium for low-income customers, require enhanced outreach and education, and increase targeted construction of renewable generation projects in disadvantaged communities.

ORA supports SB 366 because it creates a meaningful and affordable option for low-income customers to benefit from clean, renewable power by participating in the GTSR program and by increased renewable generation projects in disadvantaged communities.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please don't hesitate to call me at (415) 703-2381.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Elizabeth Echols".

Elizabeth Echols, Director
Office of Ratepayer Advocates