



August 29, 2024

Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 3264 (Petrie-Norris) – Support

Dear Assemblymember Petrie-Norris:

The Public Advocates Office is the independent consumer advocate at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). We advocate for affordable, safe, and reliable utility services consistent with the state's climate and clean energy goals.

We support AB 3264 because it introduces key measures to address the rapid pace of electricity rate increases.

The bill requires the CPUC to establish an energy cost framework to identify and track major cost drivers and assess the impact of energy costs on households. This framework will be a critical tool for exerting cost discipline and prioritizing how ratepayer funds should be used.

Additionally, AB 3264 broadens the evaluation of demand-side programs, which will allow decisionmakers to better determine the programs' benefits to ratepayers and their alignment with the state's energy goals.

Lastly, the bill initiates a vital study to explore options for reducing the cost of transmission expansion. While expanding California's transmission system is essential for achieving the state's energy policy goals, it is also a significant driver of rate increases. This study is critical to finding cost-effective solutions that will protect ratepayers.

Overall, AB 3264 provides an essential foundation to reduce and control electricity costs, offering long-term relief to customers burdened with high bills.

Sincerely,

Linda Serizawa
Interim Director