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**BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS**

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

June 24, 2021

The Honorable Chris Holden  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy  
State Capitol, Room 5132  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 612 (Portantino) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Holden:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our support for SB 612 (Portantino), a ratepayer equity bill that would ensure fair and equal access to the benefits of legacy resources and that these legacy resources held in the investor-owned utility (IOU) portfolios are managed to maximize value for all customers.

Over the last decade, more than 11 million customers have transitioned from IOU electric service to CCAs, local government-owned utilities choosing to purchase electricity on behalf of their communities. The County of Santa Barbara is a part of Central Coast Community Energy, which is comprised of 33 communities across the Central Coast. Our agencies have banded together to provide clean electricity at competitive rates, offering a choice in electricity service providers for the first time to over 400,000 customers in the region.

When a customer transitions to a CCA, the customer continues to pay for resources, like energy, that were procured on their behalf through the power charge indifference adjustment (PCIA). However, unlike an IOU customer, CCA customers receive no benefits from these resources. This inequity has been exacerbated in recent years as the cost of this payment has risen by hundreds of millions of dollars, with no sign of decreasing. The impacts of COVID-19 have made the importance of righting this inequity and lowering costs for all customers even more urgent.

This bill would ensure fair and equal access to the benefits of the resources that all customers pay for and would ensure that these legacy contracts are managed in a way that maximizes benefits for everyone. The bill would also require the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to recognize the value of GHG-free energy in legacy contracts.

However, time is of the essence. The longer the Legislature takes to act, the less valuable these legacy contracts will be, and the less value customers will gain from access to them. That is why we need your support for this important legislation.

The BioMAT program was created by SB 1122 (2012, Rubio) to support procurement from small-scale bioenergy projects, including wastewater treatment, agricultural bioenergy, and generation from byproducts of sustainable forest management. The program was only made available to investor-owned utilities because at the time, there was only one CCA serving customers. In the decade since, 23 new CCAs have launched and now serve more than 11 million customers across California.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2021 Legislative Platform that includes Energy and Climate Plank that specifically states that the County will support legislation that is favorable to local energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy storage, electrification initiatives, and Community Choice Energy programs.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support SB 612. If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Jasmine McGinty at 805-568-3108 or [jmcginty@countyofsb.org](mailto:jmcginty@countyofsb.org). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cliff Berg

*Governmental Advocates, Inc.*

cc: The Honorable Senator Anthony Portantino, Author  
Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy  
Laura Shybut, Consultant, Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy  
Gregory Melkonian, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus  
The Honorable Senator Monique Limon, 19<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
The Honorable Assemblymember Steve Bennett, 37<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Brian Kimball, Policy Advisor, Central Coast Community Energy (3CE)  
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors  
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Nancy Anderson, Assistant County Executive Officer, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors