

Board of Directors

July 10, 2025

Bapu Vaitla  
Chair  
*Davis City Council*

The Honorable Angelique Ashby  
Chair, Senate Committee on Business, Professions & Economic Development  
1021 O Street, Room 8630  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Donna Neville  
*Davis City Council*

Richard Casavecchia  
*Winters City Council*

**Re: AB 825 (Petrie-Norris) – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**

Jesse Loren  
Vice Chair  
*Winters City Council*

Dear Senator Ashby,

Shiela Allen  
*Yolo County Board of Supervisors*

On behalf of Valley Clean Energy (VCE), a community choice aggregation (CCA) program serving Yolo County, I write to convey our position of oppose unless amended to AB 825 (Petrie-Norris). Our position is based on the proposed policy in Section 4 of the bill that would require the development of a new task force, within the California Energy Commission (CEC), that would have broad authority to eliminate or alter programs administered by CCAs, including those that CCAs self-fund.

Lucas Frerichs  
*Yolo County Board of Supervisors*

Tom Stallard  
*Woodland City Council*

Tania Garcia-Cadena  
*Woodland City Council*

VCE is the not-for-profit public electricity provider serving over 120,000 customers in unincorporated Yolo County and the cities of Woodland, Davis, and Winters. As a locally governed public entity we are focused on providing cost effective clean electricity while improving the communities we serve through local reinvestment of our revenues. We are also focused on innovating new programs that reduce demand, particularly at the peak.

Our member jurisdictions are committed to increasing affordability while addressing the climate crisis, which is why we design all of our programs to maximize customer savings while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The programs we administer, whether they are funded by ratepayers through CPUC programs, state grants from the CEC, or self-funded, are tailored to our communities as our communities are directly involved in the program design. Further, VCE's programs are discussed, modified and approved through a public process, with input from our Board of Directors and Community Advisory Committee.

For example, in 2023 we administered an electric vehicle rebate program to incentivize customers to make the switch to EVs. Based on the budget available, we provided nearly 40 rebates with over 20% of rebates going to low-income customers. We are currently in the design phase of a second round of rebates that will scale up the total budget and tweak the eligibility factors to better target those customers that need the financial assistance.

VCE is also proud to have piloted programs utilizing PUC approved ratepayer funding to help address the challenge of reliability at the peak. Working with farmers in our service territory, we devised a dynamic pricing system known as the Agricultural Flexible Irrigation Technology (AgFIT) to incentivize farmers to shift their groundwater pumping and irrigation practices to avoid

irrigating during the peak load window and reduce demand on the grid. This has proven to be a successful approach and is now being piloted in other areas of the state.

These program examples demonstrate the innovative capabilities of CCAs that will be impacted by the proposed process in Section 4 of AB 825. The bill will require a newly created taskforce, comprised of representatives from statewide agencies, to review and make recommendations on the effectiveness of our locally tailored programs. We believe this task force will miss the unique factors that make our programs work for our customers and communities and lead to a chilling effect on CCAs advancing novel program concepts to assist in our energy transition.

**As our concerns relate solely to Section 4 of AB 825, we respectfully request that the bill be amended to delete Section 4 in its entirety.** We would also request that the amendments made to Section Public Utilities Code 454.5(b)(9)(C)(ii) in Section 5 of the bill also be stricken. We take no issue with the remaining provisions of the bill regarding more affordable ways to install transmission infrastructure.

For these reasons, we must respectfully oppose AB 825 unless the bill is amended to address our concerns.

We thank the author for her work and look forward to further conversations on this bill.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Fenstermaker who can be reached at [mark@pacificpolicygroup.com](mailto:mark@pacificpolicygroup.com); 916-798-8088.

Sincerely,



Mitch Sears  
Executive Officer  
Valley Clean Energy

cc: The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris  
The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Business, Professions & Economic  
Development  
The Honorable Christopher Cabaldon  
The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry