



Board of Directors

May 21, 2020

Angel Barajas
Woodland City Council

The Honorable Ben Hueso
Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities & Communications Committee
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dan Carson
VCE Vice Chair
Davis City Council

Wade Cowan
Winters City Council

Re: SB 1312 (McGuire) – Support

Lucas Frerichs
Davis City Council

Dear Senator Hueso,

Jesse Loren
Winters City Council

On behalf of Valley Clean Energy (VCE), a community choice aggregation (CCA) program serving Yolo County, I write to express our support SB 1312 (McGuire), a bill that will strengthen the electricity grid and reduce the threat of utility caused wildfires and public safety power shutoff (PSPS) events.

Gary Sandy
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

Don Saylor
VCE Chair
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

Devastating wildfires caused by investor owned utility (IOU) infrastructure has exposed serious flaws in many portions of California's electricity grid. The ever-increasing threat of catastrophic wildfires, and the recent devastation and liability posed by these firestorms, has driven IOUs to increase the voluntary use of PSPS, and these power shutoffs are likely to increase in the coming years.

Tom Stallard
Woodland City Council

IOUs, particularly PG&E, initiated an unprecedented level of PSPS events last year, causing Californians to wonder if a lack of power for days or even weeks at a time will be an annual occurrence. Beginning in September, over two million residents lost power across 40 counties. In the aftermath of these disastrous PSPS incidents, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has conducted limited review of PSPS reports IOUs must file, reports that are lacking in key information and accountability.

SB 1312 will create a consistent set of procedures for PSPS events by requiring the CPUC to develop a standard to measure an IOUs prudence in enacting a PSPS as well as the capital expenditures an IOU makes to mitigate the wildfire ignition risk of the IOUs transmission and distribution infrastructure. This standard will allow the CPUC to take enforcement action against IOUs if the IOU inappropriately executes a PSPS, enforcement action that should compel IOUs to make necessary infrastructure upgrades to minimize the use of PSPS and the threat of wildfire ignition. The bill would also require IOUs to provide details on their power lines that caused a PSPS and identify lines that are more likely to cause PSPS, both of which should help form a strategy to upgrade the electrical grid.



For these reasons, we support SB 1312 and thank Senator McGuire for his leadership in carrying this measure. We respectfully request your aye vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don Saylor".

Don Saylor
Chair of the Board
Valley Clean Energy

cc: The Senate Energy, Utilities & Communications Committee
The Honorable Mike McGuire