

Resolution in Support of Rooftop and Distributed Solar and Batteries for Tenants, School,  
Farmers, and Everyone

WHEREAS, rooftop solar and battery storage is the only clean energy solution that has worked to reduce energy bills and protect residents and communities from blackouts, and reduce the considerable expense of long-distance energy transport from solar and wind farms, thus saving all ratepayers money, and protecting open space from large-scale renewable energy development, making it clear that California should be moving decisively toward its goal of tripling rooftop solar by making rooftop solar panels and batteries more available and affordable for everyone; and

WHEREAS, The California Public Utilities Commission recently issued a decision that vastly reduced the credit value for energy exported to the electric grid but still allows customers to buy less energy from the utilities when they use their generated or stored energy on-site in real time, and is now considering changes to net energy metering rules for multi-meter properties, which would impact multifamily tenants, schools, and farms; and

WHEREAS, recent proposals made by investor-owned utilities would deny multi-meter properties the ability to buy less power from the utilities when they consume power directly from on-site solar, which would force tenants, schools, and farms to buy all of their power from the utility even when it is generated on their own rooftop or field – a patently absurd and unfair proposal as it would allow customers with only one electric meter to distinguish between on-site usage and exports while not allowing customers with multiple meters to do the same.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee supports the principle that the full benefits of rooftop and distributed solar and battery storage should be available to all Californians, including multifamily renters, students, and farmers; and urges the California Public Utilities Commission and Governor to reject any proposals that seek to frustrate or dismantle the ability of tenants, schools, and farmers to avail themselves of the benefits of local, renewable, and affordable energy through rooftop solar and battery storage;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee supports efforts to ensure continued viability of solar net energy metering tariffs for multi-family properties such as multifamily housing, schools, and farms, including property netting and a gradual transition toward lower export rates to ensure a reasonable glidepath for the customer solar market.

Moved by Ashleigh Evans, Diana Reddy

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