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SB 100 Report

How should issues around equity (environmental, economic, social) and affordability be addressed?

A 100% Clean Energy Future requires liberating energy data from the hoarding clutches of individual companies. Currently, if I have thermometer devices at home tracking and adjusting energy use, and I switch company for more comprehensive services, I have to install new devices. This is wasteful and goes against California's sustainability goals. The waste is caused by companies making it extremely hard for other companies, who earn my business, to access and analyze energy use data from their devices. This does not help me or any other customer, especially if they are price-sensitive. One day, these smart, demand-side energy management devices and apps are going to become commonplace (even in public housing) just as they are in other parts of the world like Korea and other high tech countries. The SB 100 Joint Agency Report needs to address equity issues in not just the clean energy generation, transmission, distribution, and retailing, but also the equity issues in energy data collection, accessibility, storage, analysis, and responsive use to lessen the burden on price-sensitive, time-deficient, expertise-lacking, and attention-deficient populations. This means life cycle data from source to spend of energy, associated carbon dioxide equivalent emissions, and locales impacted (improved and/or worsened.) Please consider collecting device level energy use data from all companies and requiring the exchange of such data in the case of company changes to prevent hoarding and monopolizing energy use data.

Moreover, a 100% Clean Energy Future by 2045 requires responsible Residential Energy Efficiency Loan (REEL), Home Energy Renovation Opportunity (HERO), and Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) loans. Los Angeles Times reported in their April 4, 2019 article titled "Homeowners were defrauded through the PACE lending program, L.A.'s city attorney alleges" on this matter. Local NPR station KCRW reported in Greater LA on September 17, 2019 about how elderly, low-income homeowner Gwendolyn Lang had her home foreclosed due to a contractor's upselling in "Effort to make LA more eco-friendly means foreclosure for one homeowner." Loans that allow energy efficiency and home upgrade contractors to place a lien on the property after upselling homeowners to maximize their profits need robust safeguards through joint efforts between federal, state, and local agencies. Irresponsible contractors are causing elderly no-to-low-income homeowners and other vulnerable people to lose their homes. Please ensure any access to capital and program/project funding provided through SB 100 protects homeowners and economically-disadvantaged business owners, who may be used for procurement.