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IEPR – TAC Reform and support of microgrids

To Whom It May Concern –

Hello. I am a concerned citizen who is working to become knowledgeable about energy issues in California. I am not a professional, so please bear with me as I express my point of view in case I misuse use some of the jargon. I was moved to comment here because I am concerned about the cost of energy for my family and my fellow community members, and because I care greatly about environmental justice, which means I want to push for policies that make the most environmentally friendly sources of energy as inexpensive and as accessible for all people as possible.

Here are my concerns:

Please commit to updating the means by which Transmission Access Charges are calculated. TAC Reform is necessary because we must take into account the actual, entire costs of energy including the costs of transmission from afar. Using formulas to assess charges which inaccurately and unfairly benefit investor-owned utility companies is not in the best interests of the people, and it is the people who you should be looking out for, not corporations.

We must support the local production and storage of energy (ie, microgrids) to build community resilience. We must support the work of clean local energy projects in order to stop harming the planet with environmentally damaging practices. We must support companies which provide local employment opportunities that help mitigate the effects of the climate emergency we are facing, especially if they support just transitions of people from –dirty energy– employment in the oil and gas industry.

This information from the Clean Coalition really caught my attention:

–[Transmission Access Charges] steal 3 cents per kWh from clean local energy projects – raising the cost of this energy by as much as 50% and disadvantaging an industry that has the potential to drive economic development for every community in the State.–

Please! We are facing a climate emergency and cannot afford to mess around on these matters! We must make it easy and cost-effective to build clean power alliances and help them provide clean renewable energy in our communities.

I strongly support moving the generation of renewable (especially solar and wind) energy as close as possible to the places where it’s needed. This means changing the way the energy business is run, and making it profitable all the way around to be as environmentally friendly as possible. And that requires you to set in place policies which support such forward-thinking planning.

Thank you for giving me this chance to comment –
Kari Aist

Ventura CA

<https://clean-coalition.org/policy/transmission-access-charges/>