

Dear CPUC Commissioners:

California is a nationwide leader in agriculture, producing much of the nation's produce, dairy products, and wine. We also lead the nation in rooftop solar, and we set the pace for forward-thinking energy policy.

There is one particular policy that has been vital to saving consumers money, and in this time of drought, water, for California farmers: net energy metering. Net energy metering is a program that compensates solar consumers for any excess electricity they export to the grid. The program has helped fuel the explosive growth of solar across the state.

California's farmers benefit from the ability to go solar. Farms like Batth Farms, which went solar in 2011, will save \$9 million over 30 years and Bettencourt Farms which will save 93% over the next 25 years, need the freedom to choose the electricity options that make the most sense for their bottom line.

The economic and environmental benefits of solar are finally coming to agricultural communities, and so we're surprised and concerned by the utilities' proposals to fundamentally change net energy metering. Certain parts of the proposals are particularly damaging for the agricultural community and must not be adopted:

- All three IOUs' proposals to reduce the solar payback rate below the retail rate
- PG&E's proposal to change from an annual to a monthly true-up period
- SCE and SDG&E's proposals to end aggregated net energy metering

We encourage the California Public Utilities Commission to continue full net energy metering, including aggregate net energy metering and annual true-ups, for California's farmers, and for all solar customers throughout the state.

Signed,

Andy Zonneveld

Zonneveld Farms, Laton

Brian Medeiros

Medeiros and Son Dairy, Hanford

Cannon Michael

Bowles Farming Co., Los Banos

Daniel Hartwig

Woolf Farming, Huron

Frank I. Hilliker

Hilliker's Ranch Fresh Eggs Inc.,
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Gary Thiara

Empire Farming, Yuba City

Harry H Wetzel, IV

Alexander Valley Vineyards,
Healdsburg

Justin Matheson

Matheson Cattle Ranch, Igo

Larry Bettencourt

Bettencourt Farms, Hanford

Michael Wallace

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Mike Monteiro

Lakeside Dairy, Tulare

Paul Betancourt

VF Farms, Coalinga

Pat V. Ricchiuti

P-R Farms, Clovis

Russ Tavlan

Moonlight Packing Corp, Reedley

Stephen De Lormier

D'Arrigo Bros., Salinas

William D. Carriere

Carriere Family Farms, Inc. Glenn

Cc: Governor Brown