



April 10, 2012

The Honorable Steven Bradford
Chair, Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee
State Capitol, Room 5136
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2234 (Hill)

SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Bradford:

On behalf of the School Energy Coalition (SEC), an organization made up of K-12 schools, community colleges, architects and school construction consultants with a focus on energy efficiency and renewable generation facility projects for California's students, I am writing in support of AB 2234 (Hill), a bill that that will allow schools to receive net metering credits for renewable energy installations up to 5 megawatts in size compared to the current net metering limit of 1 megawatt.

Over the past decade, for a variety of environmental and budgetary reasons, K-14 schools have invested in school efficiency and renewable projects. More recently, we know schools are examining in greater numbers whether these projects will lower, or at least stabilize, their budget bottom lines in the wake of consecutive years of state budget cuts.

SEC supports net energy metering (NEM) as a key factor in whether these school energy projects pencil out, stabilize budgets, and generate savings. This is because a school's annual energy use is predictable and continues to generate clean energy in the late afternoon after the school day ends, and during the hot summer months, it allows them to be credited for that power.

The NEM credit received stretches the voter and taxpayer dollars used to build and renovate schools with clean renewable energy systems, thus creating savings that can be put to other school uses which benefit student learning and achievement.

Many school districts and community colleges have larger electricity loads that justify NEM generation greater than 1 MW. As a result, several school districts and community college campuses are prevented from obtaining the full benefits of NEM because of the system size limit.

By allowing public agencies to build DG systems up to 5 MW and receive NEM benefits, more schools will find it feasible to make the financial investment in these projects.

For these reasons SEC supports AB 2234 (Hill) and urges your Aye vote when it comes before the Committee on April 16, 2012.

Sincerely,

Anna Ferrera

cc: Assembly Member Jerry Hill
Members, Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee