



August 14, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Assembly Bill 2068 (Chu)
Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Brown:

The School Energy Coalition (SEC), a statewide organization made up of K-12 schools, community colleges, energy and school construction professionals focused on electricity and water efficiency and renewable generation for California's students, requests your signature on Assembly Bill 2068 (Chu) when the bill comes before you.

AB 2068 would require the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to direct the gas and electrical utilities under its jurisdiction to evaluate the impact of establishing a public school rate. This report shall be submitted to the Legislature, by January 1, 2020, and includes specified requirements.

SEC supports AB 2068 as this bill recognizes the unique nature and energy load profile of school districts and county offices of education. Electricity rates are often one of the top five most costly items in a school district's discretionary budget.

In August 2017, the CPUC made a recommendation for a "schools-only" rate as part of its Decision Revenue Allocation and Rate Design for the San Diego Gas & Electric Company (D17-08-030). This school-only rate would be separate from the medium or large commercial and industrial class rates to which it currently belongs. AB 2068 asks the Commission to make a similar recommendation to all the utilities under its jurisdiction statewide.

Electricity rate increases erase savings and impact investments local education agencies (LEAs) have made under statewide voter-approved Proposition 39. This five-year program funding was approved by California voters in November 2012. LEAs have spoken for over 98% of the taxpayer dollars made available for cost-effective energy projects, replacing lighting and inefficient air-conditioning and heating units, controls and sensors, and installing solar panels. At the end of the program, after project completion, they must show cost and energy savings as a result of these installations. Electricity rate increases erode these cost savings.



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California's schools are more aware than ever of their energy usage and the cost and energy savings possible when they install energy efficiency and renewable projects due in part to this program. Their win at the local level translates to a bigger win at the statewide level as the collective impact of these local projects create a better environment for all of our citizens.

AB 2068 asks that the CPUC study whether a school rate would make sense, taking into account an LEA's unique energy usage and vulnerability to react to rate increases, so that LEAs may be considered in a similar fashion to other electricity customers that receive discounted rates.

Please contact me with questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Anna Ferrera
School Energy Coalition

cc: The Honorable Kansen Chu
Camille Wagner, Legislative Affairs Secretary
Catalina Hayes-Bautista, Deputy Legislative Secretary
Danielle Mae Santiago, Legislative Assistant