



April 27, 2016

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Bill 2120 (Weber)
Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez:

The School Energy Coalition (SEC), an organization made up of K-12 schools, community colleges, school construction and energy consultants focused on energy and water efficiency and renewable generation projects for California's students, requests your support for Assembly Bill 2120 when the bill is next heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2120 (Weber) would allow consortiums of K-12 school districts and county offices of education (COE) to be eligible to participate in the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) Intervenor Compensation Program. The program reimburses eligible applicants for their expenditures only if they qualify under the specific parameters of the program.

Allowing schools to participate in the CPUC's Intervenor Compensation program will save state resources because the Commission may set energy rules in a more fully informed manner.

In the wake of budget cuts and the funding available through Proposition 39, schools have been making significant investments in energy efficiency and renewable projects on school sites. Because of these investments schools statewide are now extremely aware of proposed changes in electricity rates that may alter promised payback periods and the return on investment that is required for approval under the Proposition 39 program. However, formal participation in CPUC proceedings is extremely costly and time-consuming.

AB 2120 (Weber) would ensure that financial status does not bar school district customers with critical information from participating in the decision-making process. Currently, K-14 schools are unable to participate formally due to the financial burden and, therefore, Commissioners may not be fully informed of the fiscal impact to school districts, students and communities across the state when deliberating on such proceedings.



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SEC appreciates recent amendments that allow schools to form a consortium that may go beyond COE boundaries so that they may more easily group together by IOU territory to address an item before the CPUC. By doing so, this bill provides an important option and yet continues to limit participation to a group of schools rather than every individual school district.

Finally, we understand the concern regarding the added costs of school participation in this program; however, we believe the benefits will outweigh the costs as schools will surely use this option sparingly given it is a reimbursement program with no guarantee for repayment.

In the end, this legislation will allow for more public input to the Commission on energy decisions that could affect students – given the investments schools have made and their unique energy usage profile. This will make the proceedings process more efficient and ensure that less time and resources are being used on outcomes that must be reviewed or re-heard after the fact.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me with questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Anna Ferrera
School Energy Coalition

cc: Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Shirley Weber, Assembly Member
Crystal Quezada, Office of Assembly Member Shirley Weber
Eric Swanson, Assembly Republican Caucus