



Association of California Community & Energy Services

August 8, 2025

The Honorable Rhodesia Ransom
Assemblymember, District 13
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 6340
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SUPPORT AB 13 (RANSOM) – CPUC Accountability and Transparency Reform

Dear Assemblymember Ransom,

Association of California Community & Energy Services (ACCES) writes in strong support of AB 13, which makes several changes to reform the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), aimed at creating accessibility and transparency into their decision making processes, and increasing oversight and accountability of the Commission.

Founded in 2002 to help statewide non-profits deliver low-income program services to their communities, ACCES' mission is to ensure equity in access to program services for low-income households and to enhance the quality and depth of these services. ACCES members provide a variety of social service programs to California's low-income communities aimed at decreasing California's carbon footprint. Programs such as utility assistance payments and home weatherization are designed to reduce the burden of utility costs for low-income families and increase the level of energy efficiency in existing housing stock. ACCES supports AB 13 as it provides accountability and transparency of CPUC and would allow better representation of the communities that our members served.

Over the last several years, Californians have witnessed their utility bills increasing rapidly, with no explanation as to why these hikes are happening. The rates of California utilities have not only surpassed the rate of inflation, but have also outpaced the growth in other states. The residential electricity rates in California are, on average, close to double those in the rest of the country.

The CPUC's complete lack of transparency and accessibility in its deliberations, processes, and decision-making has led to widespread frustration among Californians. This has highlighted the urgent need for the California Legislature to reform the CPUC and strengthen oversight to ensure it is truly accountable to California ratepayers. AB 13 is a crucial reform that ensures rate hikes

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are fair and transparent, and requires utilities to justify their requests more clearly to protect consumers from excessive price increases.

For these reasons we support this bill and we thank Assemblymember Ransom for her work on this bill.

Respectfully,

Anh Lay, Interim Executive Director
ACCES

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