

Dear Members of the California Legislature:  
cc: Governor Gavin Newsom

I am writing on behalf of ABAG POWER, a group of nearly 40 local governments that pool their natural gas needs to achieve aggregated, competitive purchasing for hundreds of critical facilities.

For the past 25 years, ABAG POWER has supported widespread adoption of renewable energy, energy efficiency and decarbonization, including serving as a renewable electricity provider, advocating for the creation of local government energy efficiency programs and Community Choice Aggregation, and serving as a partner for various collective purchasing efforts for municipal solar.

We are writing to express concern about the proposed fixed charge currently being considered by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) as a result of the passage of AB 205 in 2022. Specifically, we oppose the high fixed charges currently being discussed, which are three to twelve times the national average. Such high charges will increase electricity bills on households that use relatively little energy. This includes people who live in apartments, condos, and small homes, as well as residents who have taken steps to conserve energy or install solar panels. This will increase the already high cost of living on many working families while discouraging energy conservation.

ABAG POWER supports a robust public discussion on a comprehensive approach to reducing the high cost of electricity in California. Unfortunately, a high fixed charge will not address this problem, and will create negative consequences for the public and the state's climate change progress.

Thank you for your consideration.