



Press Release

For Immediate Release: June 19, 2014

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Community, Environmental, Labor & Environmental Justice Groups Urge Bay Area Senators to Resist PG&E Pressure and Oppose AB 2145

Oakland, CA – Sixty people from community, environmental, labor and environmental justice organizations rallied in front of the Downtown Oakland PG&E payment center to call on state senators to oppose the bill AB 2145, which they have dubbed “The Utility Monopoly Power Grab of 2014.” The payment center was chosen as a symbol of ratepayer money misspent by PG&E on lobbyists in Sacramento paid to crush competition from Community Choice clean energy programs.

The rally included street theater in which a mock PG&E executive and a recent college graduate seeking a clean energy job vied for the vote of a mock Senator. Rally participants then made calls asking Senators Padilla, Corbett and DeSaulnier to oppose the bill.

Speakers challenged PG&E for spending tens of thousands of rate payers' dollars on campaign donations to the state Assembly, where the bill passed, and for doing the same in the state Senate, where the bill will go to a vote on Monday, June 23rd.

Jess Dervin-Ackerman, Conservation Organizer for the Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter said, “AB 2145 will kill all local community-based clean energy competition and local clean energy job creation from the state’s fledgling Community Choice energy programs. If this terrible bill is made law, California’s shift to decentralized clean energy generation to address the climate crisis will be dead in the water. We are calling on our Bay Area Senators Ellen Corbett, Mark DeSalnier, Lois Wolk, and Jerry Hill, to be our champions on the Senate Energy Committee to lead the opposition to AB 2145.”

Fred Pecker, spokesperson for the International Longshoremen and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 6, stated, “The jobs that will pull us out of the economic crisis are green jobs, building clean energy and efficiency, and mass transit systems, all over California and the world. Studies show that these green infrastructure jobs create vastly more employment than the fossil energy industry. Community Choice programs have the potential to generate tens of thousands of jobs in California. AB 2145 would put an end to Community Choice, and those thousands of green jobs would evaporate.”

Nile Malloy of Communities for a Better Environment said, “There are underserved communities all over California waiting for these programs to begin, and directly reduce pollutants in our neighborhoods while providing vital new jobs. AB 2145 will pull the rug right out from under those communities, stealing away crucial new hope for a better future.”

Other groups included Academic Workers at UC United Auto Workers Local 2865, Local Clean Energy Alliance, Bay Localize, Organizing For Action, 350 Bay Area, MoveOn.org, Movement Generation Justice & Ecology Project, and others, held a rally and street theater action at the PG&E Payment Center at 1919 Webster Street in Oakland today.

About Community Choice Energy

California’s 2002 Community Choice law allows any city or county to group its local electricity customers together to buy and generate local clean energy at bulk rates, and compete with the monopoly utilities, to deliver greener electricity at lower prices. Alameda County recently voted to start its own East Bay Community Choice program, which rally organizers say will be stopped in its tracks by AB 2145.

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