

May 14, 2012

Senator Alex Padilla  
Committee on Energy, Utilities & Communications  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4058  
Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: AB 976 (Hall) – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Local Clean Energy Alliance of the Bay Area, I would like to express our strong opposition to California Assembly Bill 976 (AB 976), which would undermine AB 117, the Community Choice Aggregation law passed in 2002.

Many communities in our region and many citizens have been strongly in support of using CCA programs as a tool to foster healthy competition, to increase the use of local renewable power resources, to achieve substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, to stimulate local economies, and to create new local, prevailing wage jobs. Community Choice programs support State goals in the energy sector and state law should facilitate the expansion of Community Choice energy programs by local governments.

However, AB 976 would create a huge impediment to the establishment of CCA programs, making a successful launch virtually impossible. It would do this by prohibiting a CCA program from procuring electricity or energy services from any entity that provided any analysis, advice, consultation, or other services to the CCA prior to its official commencement of service to customers.

In effect, consultants needed to set up a CCA program would be banned from doing further business with the CCA program once it commenced services; AB 976 would thus discourage companies with the required expertise from assisting in the set-up of a CCA program.

Such provisions discriminate against CCA programs and experts: they do not apply to investor-owned utilities or municipal utilities. AB 976 is clearly targeted by special interests (as was Proposition 16 last year) to undermine formation of CCA programs. AB 976 is a stealth effort to roll back AB 117, the Community Choice Aggregation law passed in 2002.

We therefore urge you to help the state achieve its green energy and green economy goals by strongly opposing AB 976.

Sincerely,

*Al Weinrub*  
Coordinator, Local Clean Energy Alliance

