



# Protect Rooftop Solar

By **Sharon Broberg, S.B.**

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I laud the Independent for publishing John Perlin's editorial "[No More Rooftop Solar?](#)"

PG&E, So Cal Edison, and San Diego Gas & Electric have lobbied the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to make consumer solar twice as expensive as it is today – by charging a solar penalty fee between \$56 and \$91 per month just for putting solar panels on a home, and slashing the credit solar users receive for sharing their surplus energy with the community.

We have a chance to keep solar growing and to grow it more equitably so millions more working class people can get solar, including renters. As more and more solar power is installed solar-powered batteries will become more affordable, allowing more people to install batteries and protect themselves from power outages. This will make our communities safer and more resilient.

The CPUC issued a proposal in December that went along with the utilities' desire to collect fees on rooftop solar. The CPUC may vote to approve or disapprove the fees as early as January 27. Governor Newsom has indicated that he feels that the CPUC's proposal needs modification, but has also said he won't intervene in the commission's process.

I urge readers to call the governor. Tell him you are against the proposed Solar Penalty Fee, and against slashing the value of rooftop solar by 80 percent.

As John Perlin said, this proposal "would allow utilities to own the sun and force everyone else to pay for photons."

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<https://www.independent.com/2022/01/18/protect-rooftop-solar/>