



October 7, 2026

The Honorable Aisha Wahab
Member, Senate Committee on Business, Law, and Health
1021 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 24 - Support with Amendments

Dear Senator Wahab,

We are writing to express support of Senate Bill 24, *Energy: affordability and efficiency program*.

California households continue to face rising energy costs, particularly those living in older or less energy efficient housing. Many families, especially low-income households and those in disadvantaged or historically underserved communities, experience high energy burdens. Which strain monthly budgets and limit access to basic necessities. SB-24 takes an important step towards addressing these inequities by establishing the California Energy Affordability and Efficiency Program within the California Public Utilities Commission(CPUC). However, simply having scattered programs available is not enough. Without clear statewide coordination and explicit inclusion of tribal communities, many households most in need remain unable to access cost saving improvements.

Energy efficiency improvements benefit all Californians, not just those with the highest energy burdens. Weatherization, insulation upgrades, efficient appliances, heating and cooling improvements, and water-heating efficiency measures reduce long term energy consumption and lower utility bills. For tribal communities and the surrounding regions we represent, these upgrades are especially critical. Many tribal citizens live in rural areas with aging housing stock, limited access to energy efficiency programs, and higher utility costs due to climate conditions and infrastructure gaps. Without explicit inclusion of tribal households and coordination with tribal households and coordination with tribal governments, these communities may continue to face barriers to accessing programs intended to reduce their energy burden.

High energy burdens can force families to make unsafe or unhealthy choices, such as avoiding heating or cooling during extreme weather, delaying appliance replacement, or living with inadequate insulation. These conditions can lead to respiratory issues, heat related illness, and long term financial instability. SB-24 addresses these challenges by directing the program towards households facing the greatest need, including those with high energy bills, families already enrolled in utility assistance programs, or residents living in older or inefficient housing. These categories include many tribal households and communities adjacent to tribal land.

Just as existing law sets objective standards for utility regulation, SB-24 establishes a clear statewide process for identifying eligible customers, coordinating resources, and ensuring that energy efficiency improvements reach the households most in need. The bill requires electrical and gas corporations to cooperate with the CPUC, provide information to customers, coordinate enrollment, and facilitate access to approved services. Importantly SB-24 uses existing energy efficiency resources, federal funds, and other lawful sources. It explicitly states that no new charge may be imposed on residential customers. Thus ensures affordability while expanding access.

However, to ensure that SB-24 fulfills its intended purpose, we respectfully request following amendments:

1. Explicit inclusion of tribal households and tribal lands

Households located on tribal lands or served by tribally operated utility systems should be clearly eligible for participation.

2. Protection of tribal sovereignty

SB-24 should clarify that nothing in the bill expands CPUC jurisdiction over tribal lands, tribal governments, or tribally owned utilities.

Tribal governments have a longstanding commitment to supporting policies that strengthen community well-being, reduce household burdens, and expand access to essential services. With the amendments listed above, SB-24 would meaningfully support tribal citizens and strengthen energy affordability in underserved communities.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to support SB-24 if amended.

Sincerely,

Katniss Everdeen

Katniss Everdeen (She/Her)- Lobbyist

Tribes: San Manuel, Pechange, Santa Ynez Chumash, United Auburn, Chukchansi, Table Mountain