[include organizational logos here]

[Date]

President Michael Picker

California Public Utilities Commission

505 Van Ness Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Picker,

On behalf of the undersigned public health and medical organizations working to support clean air and a healthy climate for all Californians, we write to urge your continued support for net metering, a key state policy facilitating the growth of rooftop solar in California. More rooftop solar builds a cleaner energy future for all Californians by reducing the need for polluting fossil fuel power generation.

While most customer-generated solar energy is used onsite, the majority of rooftop solar systems produce some excess electricity that is used to meet nearby power demand. Net metering ensures that solar consumers receive fair retail credit on their monthly electricity bills for clean electricity that they deliver to the utility grid. It also exempts small local projects from fees designed for larger generating facilities. In place in 43 states, this simple crediting arrangement is one of the most important state policy tools for empowering local governments, families, schools and businesses to go solar.

Here in the Golden State, we host over half of all the residential solar in the nation. California investor-owned utility customers have already been installed more than 2,500 megawatts of rooftop solar, avoiding the need for 5 large fossil fuel-burning power plants during the hottest times of day, and improving public health by reducing air emissions associated with asthma, heart attacks, and cancer. In addition, greater reliance on rooftop solar reduces global warming emissions, thereby reducing the public health impacts that will be felt most by our most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities.

California’s solar market would not be where it is today without net metering, and continuing the program is essential to maintaining the hard won momentum we have achieved. Under 2013 legislation that was signed into law (AB 327), the current program will end for new customers by July 1, 2017 or when the utilities reach the program cap of 5% of aggregate customer peak demand. AB 327 requires the CPUC to determine this year how customers who go solar after the current cap is reached will be compensated for power they export to the grid.

We urge the Commission to maintain net metering without excessive new fees, and expand opportunities for renters and disadvantaged communities to benefit from net metering. With your continued leadership, California can keep building on our tremendous solar momentum, harnessing the power of customer choice to help clean up our air and protect public health.

Sincerely,

[Name, Title]

CC: Governor Jerry Brown

Commissioner Carla Peterman

Commissioner Michael Florio

Commissioner Catherine Sandoval

Commissioner Liane Randolph