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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 15th, 2024

COMMITTEES:
BUDGET
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
JUDICIARY
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Honorable Michael S. Regan, Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Support for the State of California's Application for the Environmental Protection Agency's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Solar for All Grant Program

Dear Administrator Regan:

I write in support of the State of California's application to the Environmental Protection Agency's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Solar for All grant program for the California Solar for All project. The requested funding would expand the benefits of solar plus storage to low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDCs) while supporting critical technologies that bolster California's electric grid under stressed conditions.

The CA-S4A represents a coalition of state entities with deep programmatic expertise in regulatory design, capacity building, project finance, infrastructure development, and grid management. Together, the coalition will leverage California's transformation of markets over the last two decades to accelerate the equitable deployment of solar plus storage to complement California's ongoing actions to decarbonize the energy sector. The requested funding would build new programmatic capacity, expand current efforts, address funding gaps, and add momentum to new strategies under development as California continues to advance the decarbonization agenda.

California is continuing to make meaningful investments to equitably deploy subsidized distributed solar energy resources in low-income and disadvantaged communities, consistent with the principles also represented in the Biden-Harris Administration's equity and environmental justice priorities, including Justice40. Federal funding for new measures will advance the critical deployment of energy storage while reducing barriers for low-income participation and enabling bill savings.

This investment would enable California to leverage state and local programs to serve low-income and disadvantaged households, while also delivering community-focused technical assistance and workforce development using proven state agency frameworks. This combination of provisions in California's proposal would overcome financial and non-financial barriers that currently impact low-income and disadvantaged households. With Solar for All funding, California will add at least 247 megawatts (MW) of solar and 425 megawatt-hours (MWh) of associated storage serving LIDCs, doubling the amount of installed distributed residential low-income multifamily capacity interconnected today, providing an annual average of 29.2% household bill savings for over 158,000 participating households, and expanding access to solar for projects with site remediation needs.

I urge your full and fair consideration of the State of California's grant application consistent with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations. Please keep my office informed of the status of this application, and if I can be of further assistance, please contact my Deputy State Director, Daniel Chen, at (415) 385-1407. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



ALEX PADILLA
United States Senator