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**January 30, 2024**

**CONTACT: Joel Price**  
[Joel.Price@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Joel.Price@asm.ca.gov)  
**(805) 370-0542**

## **Assemblymember Irwin and Others Announce Bill to Halt California Public Utilities Commission’s Proposed Income-Graduated Fee**

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**SACRAMENTO** – In an effort to assist consumers struggling with increased energy costs, Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin (D-Thousand Oaks) today introduced legislation that would call for the repeal of the California Public Utilities Commission’s (CPUC) proposed income-graduated fixed fee.

The provision allowing for the charge was placed into Assembly Bill 205 (2022), a budget trailer bill that drew little attention at the time. “At a time when energy conservation is badly needed to avoid rolling blackouts, this dramatic policy shift could actually result in increased usage by some Californians,” said **Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin**. “The CPUC has had the authority to implement a fixed rate charge, up to \$10, since 2015, but has declined to do so. I see no need to rush now. We must allow affected ratepayers to weigh-in on this unprecedented new fee.”

The proposed income-graduated fee would require the CPUC to evaluate every ratepayer’s income annually in order to assess the appropriate fee, an administrative burden that is impractical and cost prohibitive.

One example of a strategy designed to reduce distribution grid upgrades was presented in a 2023 Public Advocates Annual Report. The study reported that “encouraging electric vehicle charging at optimal times could dramatically reduce necessary distribution grid upgrades and associated costs.” The study went on to report potential savings of \$26 billion dollars with rigorous planning and forecasting.

“Our constituents have had enough and so have we! It’s time to put some reasoning back into how we charge for electricity in California.”

*Assemblymember Irwin’s website: <https://a42.asmdc.org>*

*Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin represents California’s 42nd Assembly District, which includes portions of both Ventura and Los Angeles Counties; including all of Agoura Hills, Bel Air, Beverly Glen, Brentwood, Casa Conejo, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Lake Sherwood, Malibu, Moorpark, Oak Park, Pacific Palisades, Santa Susana, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, Topanga, Westlake Village, and portions of Camarillo.*

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