



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FAIR CALIFORNIA COALITION'S STATEMENT ON
CPUC'S FIXED RATE DECISION**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—We are deeply troubled by the recent decision by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to embrace a fixed monthly utility charge under AB 205—a significant shift from the state's longstanding practice of basing charges on energy consumption. This new billing format introduces a standardized charge for all Californians, regardless of individual energy usage, which could severely disrupt conservation incentives and equity in utility billing.

This fixed rate, applied uniformly, fails to acknowledge the varied energy needs of California's diverse climates and demographics. Particularly concerning is the impact on middle-income families, small home and apartment dwellers, and individuals in cooler climates, like our coastal areas, who traditionally consume less energy. These groups will pay disproportionately more, penalizing responsible energy use and compromising our broader environmental goals. Learn more as to why fixed charges can be detrimental to ratepayers by reading former CPUC President Loretta Lynch's op-ed, "[Here's the real reason PG&E rates are skyrocketing in California.](#)"

FAIR California is closely examining the long-term impact of this decision and is ready to support efforts with California's regulatory bodies and legislators to ensure better safeguards. Our advocacy will concentrate on capping the Utility Tax and implementing necessary reforms to enhance sustainability.

About FAIR California

The Fire Accountability Infrastructure for Ratepayers (FAIR California) is a coalition of organizations representing workers, small businesses, environmental advocates, consumers, renters, affordability advocates, and older adults. We share a common demand for greater accountability from large, for-profit electric and gas utilities amid rapidly rising energy bills that severely burden residents and small businesses throughout California.

To learn more about FAIR California, please visit FAIRCA.org.

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