

From: Bottorff, Thomas E
Sent: 10/11/2011 7:53:33 PM
To: 'Peevey, Michael R.' (MP1@cpuc.ca.gov)
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: FW: Public Goods Charge - comments from Sen Republican Leader

Mike,

This is what I was referring to prior to today's session.

Tony would definitely like to speak with you next week, but he's checking to see if the 18th or 19th will work.

I'll let you know tomorrow.

Also, great meeting today; everyone I spoke with had nice comments to share.

Tom

Sen Republican Leader Bob Dutton included the following in an on-line update to folks on a web-based newsletter.

Extra Charge on Utility Bills

While Legislatively Republicans in both the Senate and Assembly were able to hold the line on increasing taxes, there will, unfortunately, be a monthly additional charge of 1.5% on their utility bill.

This may cost the average homeowner and renter anywhere from \$1 to \$4.36 per month. The cost to the average business is hundreds depending on their energy usage. In total, this program raises about \$356 million each year.

This extra charge, known as the Public Goods Charge, is supposed to support clean energy research and development programs. The program is set to expire at the end of the year.

Governor Brown recently asked the California Public Utilities Commission to “take action under the Commission’s authority to ensure that programs like those supported by the Public Goods Charge are instituted—and hopefully at their current levels.”

I believe the Governor has empowered an unelected body to increase regulations on businesses. The responsibility to universally impose a tax on ratepayers should rest on elected officials who are accountable to those who voted them into office, not faceless bureaucrats who are only accountable to those who appointed them.

There was legislation – AB 724 (Bradford) and SB 870 (Padilla) that attempted to renew this charge for an additional 8 years. Because of opposition from Senate Republicans to this additional charge on our energy bills, it failed to pass the Legislature before we adjourned last month.

This charge applies to individuals and businesses, which have both been suffering from increased electricity rates

in the last few years.

I am supportive of changing regulatory and environmental rules to make renewable energy development easier.
But ratepayers should not subsidize these projects with their hard earned dollars!