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Subject: Follow up

Dear Utility and Consumer Representatives,
I wanted to thank you for attending the February 19 convening of utilities and consumers at the Energy Foundation to explore the potential areas of agreement on key rate reform issues.

While no commitments were made, it appeared that both utilities and consumers expressed a willingness to negotiate on strategies to decrease top tier rates, reduce the number of tiers, redesign the CARE subsidy and formula for increases, net energy metering reforms, default time of use rates, and even a limited version of customer charges. Sure, we may not at the end of the day reach perfect alignment on each and every issue, but it is important to note that this was a discussion where neither side declared any concern to be an off-topic issue.

In the meantime, I wanted to let you know that SB 743 (Steinberg, Padilla) has been introduced to fix some of the CARE increase issues that were not resolved by SB 695. SB 743 has the potential to serve as a vehicle for broader rate reform should we reach agreements on major rate design policy issues.

As stated at the end of the meeting, Matt Freedman is working on an outline to further explore potential policy solutions and to request some utility data to help evaluate the feasibility of such proposals.

You will be hearing from us soon.

Thanks,

Mark

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