



May 17, 2017

The Honorable Tom Cotton  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Brad Sherman  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boozman  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Edward Royce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: Letter of Opposition to S. 838 and H.R. 1958**

Dear Senator Cotton, Senator Boozman, Senator Rubio, Congressman Sherman, and Congressman Royce:

The undersigned coalition of leading California organizations dedicated to supporting clean energy, the environment, and sustainable economic growth write today to express our strong opposition to your recently introduced legislation, S. 838 and H.R. 1958, collectively known as the *Protecting Americans from Credit Entanglements Act of 2017*.

Our coalition strongly supports consumer protections as an essential component to Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs, but the "PACE" Act of 2017 as currently written would disable PACE programs as opposed to helping them grow responsibly.

In California, PACE has been approved by more than 450 local communities because of its range of environmental and economic benefits. Over 100,000 homeowners have used PACE to finance energy- and water-saving improvements. These home upgrades are estimated to save enough energy to supply over 1.3 million California households with electricity and reduce carbon emissions that are equivalent to taking more than 800,000 passenger vehicles off the road for one year, over the duration of the products' useful life. Additionally, PACE-financed water-conserving retrofits are projected to save 8.6 billion gallons of water, while helping homeowners reduce their utility bills. PACE is also generating

positive economic benefits through local economic stimulus, increased home values, and the creation of local jobs that can't be outsourced or automated.

We believe lawmakers should look to legislative solutions that help strengthen PACE, as opposed to limiting local governments' and homeowners' access to it. In California, A.B. 2693 which was passed last year, codified strong consumer protection disclosures that work within PACE's public-private partnership framework.

Unfortunately, S. 838 and H.R. 1958 would threaten the viability of PACE by creating restrictions on local governments' use of two important tools -- property tax assessments and municipal bonds -- which are key mechanisms for enabling PACE programs.

An additional concern is that this legislation could suggest that other local government programs be subject to federal consumer lending statutes, creating ramifications for how local governments finance capital improvements within their communities.

We encourage you to consider the implications of this legislation and look forward to a responsible legislative process that considers a meaningful alternative that would truly help PACE and protect consumers.

Sincerely,



---

Bernadette Del Chiaro, Executive Director  
California Solar Energy Industries  
Association (CALSEIA)



---

Nicole Capretz  
Founder & Executive Director  
Climate Action Campaign



---

Karin Burns, Executive Director  
Build It Green



---

Sachu Constantine, Director of Policy  
Center for Sustainable Energy



---

Jason Anderson, President  
Cleantech San Diego



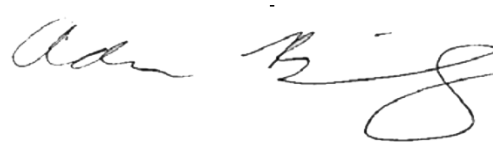
---

Eddie Ahn, Executive Director  
Brightline Defense



---

Alex J. Morris, Policy Director  
California Energy Storage Alliance (CESA)



---

Adam Browning, Executive Director  
Vote Solar

Cc: U.S. Senate Banking Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives Financial Services Committee  
California Governor Jerry Brown  
California Congressional Delegation