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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND  
COMMUNICATIONS**

**Senator Benjamin Allen, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular**

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| <b>Bill No:</b>    | SB 868           | <b>Hearing Date:</b> | 3/17/2026 |
| <b>Author:</b>     | Wiener           |                      |           |
| <b>Version:</b>    | 3/5/2026 Amended |                      |           |
| <b>Urgency:</b>    | No               | <b>Fiscal:</b>       | Yes       |
| <b>Consultant:</b> | Nidia Bautista   |                      |           |

**SUBJECT:** Electricity: portable solar generation devices

**DIGEST:** This bill exempts portable solar devices, as defined, from state law and electric utility rules regarding requirements to connect to the electrical distribution system, known as interconnection.

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations. (Article XII of the California Constitution)
- 2) Establishes the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (CEC) and prescribes the authorities, duties, and responsibilities of the CEC pertaining to energy matters. (Public Resources Code §25200 *et seq.*)
- 3) Defines “electrical corporation” to be every corporation or person owning, controlling, operating, or managing any electric plant for compensation within this state, except where electricity is generated on or distributed by the producer through private property solely for its own use or the use of its tenants and not for sale or transmission to others. (Public Utilities Code §218)
- 4) Defines “local publicly owned electric utility” to mean a municipality or municipal corporation operating as a “public utility” furnishing electric service as provided in Section 10001, a municipal utility district furnishing electric service formed pursuant to Division 6 (commencing with Section 11501), a public utility district furnishing electric services formed pursuant to the Public Utility District Act set forth in Division 7 (commencing with Section 15501), an irrigation district furnishing electric services formed pursuant to the Irrigation

District Law set forth in Division 11 (commencing with Section 20500) of the Water Code, or a joint powers authority that includes one or more of these agencies and that owns generation or transmission facilities, or furnishes electric services over its own or its member's electric distribution system. (Public Utilities Code §224.3)

- 5) Authorizes the CPUC to establish an expedited distribution grid dispute resolution interconnection process with the goal of resolving disputes over interconnection applications that are within the jurisdiction of the CPUC in no more than 60 days from the time the dispute is formally brought to the CPUC. (Public Utilities Code §769.5)
- 6) Defines “interconnection” to mean the facilities necessary to physically connect the energy source of and the point of use by a private energy producer with the existing transmission facilities of a public utility, and shall include any necessary transformation, compression or other facilities necessary to make such interconnection effective. (Public Utilities Code §2803)
- 7) Requires a private energy producer to provide and to pay the total cost of the interconnection as well as any costs associated with providing a transmission capacity sufficient to handle that portion of the energy generated by the private energy producer that is over and above the capacity otherwise required by the public utility to service its utility customers and meet other authorized commitments. (Public Utilities Code §2813)
- 8) Requires every public utility to keep accurate records of transactions with a private energy producer, and of the use of the public utility's facilities by the private energy producer, pursuant to an interconnection ordered or approved by the CPUC and renders such reports thereon to the CPUC as the CPUC may from time to time require. (Public Utilities Code §2816)
- 9) Requires each electrical utility, including each electrical corporation, local publicly owned electric utility (POU), electrical cooperative, or other entity that offers electrical service, except as specified, to develop a standard contract or tariff that provides for net energy metering (NEM), which, among other things, compensates each eligible customer-generator, as defined, for the electricity it generated during a preceding 12-month period that exceeds the electricity supplied by the electrical utility through the electrical grid to the eligible customer-generator during that same period, as provided. Requires each electrical utility to make the contract or tariff available to eligible customer-generators, upon request, on a first-come-first-served basis until the time that

the total rated generating capacity used by those eligible customer-generators exceeds five percent of the electrical utility's aggregate customer peak demand, except as specified. This contract or tariff is commonly known as NEM 1.0. (Public Utilities Code §2827)

- 10) Requires the CPUC to develop an additional standard contract or tariff, which may include NEM, for eligible customer-generators that are customers of large electrical corporations, as defined. Requires each large electrical corporation to offer this standard contract or tariff to its eligible customer-generators beginning July 1, 2017, or before that date if ordered to do so by the CPUC because it has reached the above-mentioned five percent NEM 1.0 program limit, and prohibits limiting the amount of generating capacity or the number of new eligible customer-generators entitled to receive service pursuant to this standard contract or tariff, as specified. This contract or tariff is commonly known as NEM 2.0. Authorizes the CPUC to revise the standard contract or tariff as appropriate to achieve specified objectives. (Public Utilities Code §2827.1)
- 11) Requires the CEC, in consultation with the CPUC, local POUs, and interested members of the public to establish criteria for solar energy systems receiving ratepayer funded incentives that include specified requirements, including: a warranty of not less than 10 years, the solar energy system has meters or other devices to monitor and measure the system's performance and quality of electricity generated; and the solar system is installed in conformance with the manufacturer's specification and in compliance with all applicable electrical and building code standards. Requires the CEC to set ratings standards for solar energy equipment, components, and systems to assure reasonable performance and requires the CEC to develop standards that provide for compliance for minimum ratings. (Public Resource Code §25782)

This bill:

- 1) Makes several findings about the rising cost of electricity and the costs of interconnection fees and processes for the installation of customer-sited solar and energy storage projects.
- 2) Declares it is the policy of the state to promote and encourage the use of solar energy systems and to limit the obstacles to their use, including minimizing the costs of those systems.

- 3) Defines a “portable solar generation device” to be a moveable photovoltaic (PV) energy generation device that:
  - a) Has a maximum aggregated alternating current (AC) output of 1,200 watts to a building’s electrical system.
  - b) Is designed to be connected to a building’s electrical system through a single standard electrical outlet.
  - c) Is intended to offset the customer’s onsite electricity consumption.
  - d) Is certified as a plug-in photovoltaic (PIPV) system by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or an equivalent nationally recognized testing laboratory.
  - e) Includes a feature, certified by UL or an equivalent nationally recognized testing laboratory, that isolates the portable solar generation device from the building’s electrical system to prevent the portable solar generation device from backfeeding electricity to the electrical grid during a power outage.
- 4) Exempts a portable solar generation device from all interconnection requirements imposed by state law, the CPUC, electrical corporation rules, or local POU rules, as specified.
- 5) Prohibits an electrical corporation or a local POU from requiring a customer using a portable solar generation device to take specified actions, including, among other things, paying any fee or charge related to the device or the electricity the device feeds into a building’s electrical system.

## Background

*What is plug-in solar?* Plug-in solar, also called balcony solar or portable solar, refers to a solar power system that is generally not permanently mounted to a customer roof or the ground, and can be plugged into a conventional power outlet rather than being permanently wired to the electrical system of the building. Plug-in solar energy systems are currently available for retail sale in some markets [including via Amazon and from Bright Savers, a supporter of this bill]. These units are referred to as “balcony solar” given their use by residents living in high rise multi-housing units in some countries in Europe, particularly popular in Germany. Proponents for plug-in solar systems contend that these systems can be purchased by a resident and plugged in to a standard electrical outlet without involvement from the utility, an electrician, or local building code officials. This is counter to the treatment of rooftop and ground-mounted solar energy systems which are installed with code compliance, hard-wired to the building’s electrical system, and checked for safety.

Instead, plug-in solar systems consist of two or more PV (solar) panels equipped with a microinverter, a cord that can plug into a standard electrical outlet (110/120V), and a tripod or mounting hardware (such as to place on a balcony). Some systems may also come with an energy storage battery. The microinverter converts the direct current (DC) electricity generated by the solar panels into alternating current (AC) electricity and feeds it back into the home's existing branch circuit. That electricity is then used by appliances on the same circuit or elsewhere in the home, reducing the amount of power drawn from the electric distribution grid. These systems can be daisy chained together to make a larger solar system. A single solar panel at peak output could generate enough electricity to power a standard refrigerator, computer, and some lights. With more panels, the systems can also operate a window-unit air conditioner. The unit's small size and portability makes them ideal for smaller homes and apartments.

*Potential savings for customers.* California homes average about 6,000-8,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity usage in a year, with many apartments averaging on the lower amount. Given the growing cost of electricity, proponents suggest plug-in solar can help residents reduce their electric bill, potentially meeting 14-20% of a home's electricity needs and result in electricity bill savings of \$400-\$500 annually for a small apartment. Although often referenced as balcony solar and mentioned for renters, plug-in solar systems are also targeted to customers with existing rooftop or ground-mounted solar systems subject to NEM tariffs. For these customers, the additional energy from the plug-in solar system can maximize the capacity of the NEM tariff, thereby increasing the compensation for energy sold back to the grid. Such a use may be a gray area, as the utility's interconnection agreement required for NEM systems may not allow such a use.

*Interconnection requirements.* Distributed energy resources, including solar energy systems, require connections to the electrical distribution grid. Electric Rule 21 (Rule 21) is a tariff that describes the interconnection, operating, metering, and telemetry requirements for generation facilities to be connected to an electrical corporation's distribution system and transmission system over which the CPUC has jurisdiction. Rule 21 provides customers wishing to install generating or storage facilities on their premises with access to the electrical grid while protecting the safety and reliability of the distribution and transmission systems. Each electrical corporation is responsible for administration of Rule 21 in its service territory and maintains its own version of the rule. A series of regulatory directives, issued through CPUC formalized proceedings, have taken shape since Rule 21 was established in 1982. Local POUs, generally, also require specific interconnection rules when customers wish to install generating and storage energy

resources. This collection of decisions, guidelines, and requirements allows customers to access the electrical grid and receive benefits from renewable generation while utilities safely and reliably operate electrical assets. The CPUC is in the very early stages of considering Rule 21 for plug-in solar systems. A recent scoping memo within the proceeding suggests a future phase of the proceeding to address these devices.

*Efforts in other states.* Utah is the only state to adopt legislation authorizing the use of plug-in solar without utility approval, House Bill 340 which was signed into law nearly a year ago and took effect in May. Proponents for plug-in solar have also been actively pushing efforts in other states. Roughly half of the states in the country had or have pending legislation modeled after Utah's law. In some states, the efforts for similar legislation have been stymied due to safety concerns, including Washington and Arizona.

## Comments

*Need for this bill.* According to the author:

SB 868, the Plug and Play Solar Act, will give renters and homeowners a simple, low-cost tool to reduce their energy bills and reduce pollution. Because plug-in systems are small and portable, they expand the solar market to renters, condo owners, and people with balconies, small backyards, or patios. California has roughly 14 million rental units – around 40% of households in the state – making this an especially powerful tool for expanding access to clean energy. As Californians struggle to pay their energy bills due to rising electricity rates and greenhouse gas emissions, SB 868 is the solution the state needs.

By setting clear safety standards and clearing away unnecessary utility hurdles, SB 868 opens a new, low-cost path for families to take control of their energy use. In a state where high bills and climate risks fall hardest on those with the fewest options, plug and play solar offers something rare: a realistic, hands-on tool that lets Californians save money while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

*Safety risks.* The electric utilities, electrical worker labor unions, and the National Electrical Contractors Association opposed to this bill raise many concerns about the safety risks associated with plug-in solar systems as proposed by this bill. Due to the design of the plug-in solar systems to feed electricity back into the building's circuits via a wall outlet, those opposed to this bill raise concerns about the potential risks for overcurrent, fire hazards, electric shock, and failure of existing

safety devices, including jeopardizing ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). The investor-owned utilities (IOUs) add that unreported distributed energy resources can complicate and delay outage restoration because clearance procedures become more complex and time consuming.

*Safety risks echoed in UL Solutions White Paper.* Many of the safety concerns are echoed in a White Paper, “Interactions of Plug-in Photovoltaic with Protection of Existing Power Systems”<sup>1</sup>, published by UL Solutions in late 2025. The paper noted the risks for overload current that can pose a risk of fire or shock through damaged conductors, insulation, and/or equipment connected to the circuit. The white paper contemplated various solutions to address the overcurrent risk, including a dedicated circuit with unique PIPV receptacle (therefore, not a standard electrical wall outlet). The white paper also raises concerns about touch safety of grid-interactive inverters. The paper notes that grid-interactive inverters are evaluated to limit and sometimes cease output, but they are required to be protected from general public access, enclosed appropriately and insulated from human contact. As a result, there could be a critical safety issue of these components being accessible to the general public, including electric shock and fire hazards. UL Solutions’ white paper states: “There are potential engineered solutions that can be applied and will be necessary to promote safe use of PIPV [plug-in solar] products. These can include both inherent product features and special installation practices that allow the public to choose electricity sources while also remaining safe.”

*UL Solutions debuts testing and certification framework.* In December and January, UL Solutions debuted a “Testing and Certification Framework for Safer Plug-In Solar Across the United States.” The framework provides a pathway for manufacturers to certify and test their plug-in solar systems using the UL 3700 “outline of investigation.” However, UL Solutions, a division of UL, a separate division, UL Standards and Engagement may ultimately develop the final standards based on a consensus-based process with stakeholders, a process that can take 18 months or a few years. This committee is not aware of any manufacturer who has been certified. UL Solutions has scheduled a webinar on March 18 where they intend to provide more information about the current certification framework. Importantly, some proponents of plug-in solar are not pleased with the UL safety certification framework. As noted in a February New York Times article, some of UL Solutions’ certification criteria could slow growth of the nascent industry if they are echoed in the final standards. For example, the UL requires a qualified

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<sup>1</sup> UL Solutions, White Paper: “Interactions of Plug-in PV with Protection of Existing Power Systems,” 2025. <https://www.ul.com/insights/safety-considerations-plug-photovoltaic-pipv-systems>

professional, generally an electrician, do some additional work to protect buildings' wiring systems from potential shock. The article quotes UL Solutions Vice President Ken Boyce stating, "We want to keep people safe. That's the first and foremost in our minds at all times."

*Proponents desire to evolve UL certification standard to authorize plug-and-play with standard electrical outlet.* Given the current UL safety certification framework requires a unique plug (not the standard electrical outlet) and dedicated circuit, any product certified through the current safety certification framework would require a professional (in California that is an electrician) to install the system. The requirement is intended to address many of the safety concerns raised in their White Paper, concerning touch safety, protection from over current, and breaker masking. Necessarily, these safety requirements would likely limit the ability of renters to utilize these systems, given their limited ability to make changes to their apartment or other rental building's electrical systems. However, proponents of this bill desire that UL or another national testing facility will someday have a safety certification that authorizes a plug-and-play to a standard electrical outlet. They desire a similar customer experience to the purchase of an appliance – buy it and plug it in. It is difficult to know at this juncture whether such a certification will develop given these systems send electrons back to the electrical circuits, unlike a typical appliance. Germany which is often cited as a model for the use of plug-and-play solar has different electrical system and policies, including different electrical receptacle outlets than the U.S. Germany's receptacle outlets are recessed which can provide more protection to handling of the plug as prongs can remain energized while partially exposed, posing a shock hazard. Germany also initially authorized a 600W limit, which was subsequently raised to 800W to align with the lower limit of regulation under the European Network Code.<sup>2</sup>

*National Electrical Code (NEC) safety processes.* Based on an April 2025 article by Daniel L. Gerber, and others, including Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, while solar plug-in has been successful in some European markets, there are technical challenges to the U.S. market, in particular: touch-safe plugs, breaker masking, and bidirectional GFCIs. This is consistent with the issues raised in the UL White Paper. The Utah bill for which this bill is modeled references the NEC. Proponents suggest such a reference is not necessary as UL already considers the NEC. The NEC is updated on a three-year cycle and includes a process where an appointed code-making panel accepts or rejects public input. The

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<sup>2</sup> Gerber, Daniel L., Achim Ginsberg-Klemmt, Lyn Stoler, Jordan Shackelford, and Alan Meier. 2025. "Barriers to Balcony Solar and Plug-In Distributed Energy Resources in the United States" *Energies* 18, no. 8: 2132. <https://doi.org/10.3390/en18082132>

electrical code is intended to play a critical role in fire and shock safety. The NEC does not currently have codes specific to plug-in solar, though the various devices used are governed by NEC requirements, including inverters, solar PV, receptacles, cord connectors and others. Although UL also considers NEC and does not contradict those codes, a UL product certification could very likely still require NEC rules and standards to prevent fires, shocks, other safety concerns from the use of a solar plug-in. Additionally, the NEC is used by building code standards and compliance by local permitting agencies. Additionally, the UL product safety certification does not negate the potential need for building standards and authorities having jurisdiction to address code requirements. However, this bill would likely prevent additional permitting actions. Importantly, a related bill, AB 2612 (Schultz, 2026) seeks to address updates to the state's building codes by the Building Standard Commission. *However, the author and committee may wish to amend this bill to align with the Utah bill and include a requirement that the device meets the most recent update of the National Electrical Code.*

*Registration of plug-in solar is often a requirement.* Additionally, as noted in an April 2025 article by Daniel L. Gerber, and others, including Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, “the creation in 2019 of a universal online registration form for plug-in solar was a key turning point in these discussions and played a crucial role in gaining utility acceptance of the technology.”<sup>3</sup> While not all customers register their systems, the majority do register them. As noted in the article, Germany offers a simple online form, allowing users to register devices to a specific address. “This process limits legal balcony PV to 800W, preventing the breaker masking issues... and providing valuable locational data for utility confidence in plug-in DERs, but in return, registration should guarantee customers a free and expedited interconnection agreement.” Such a registration requirement exists in other European countries that have authorized the use of these devices, including the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Slovenia, Slovakia, Poland, and Lithuania.<sup>4</sup> Many of the opponents to the bill express concerns that the lack of visibility of these systems will cause safety issues for electric lineman working on electrical circuits, utilities to plan their systems, and firefighters to respond to fires. *To address these concerns and mimicking the requirements in other jurisdictions, the author and committee may wish to authorize utilities to require a simple notification of the use of the solar plug-in systems by the customer.*

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

*Recent author amendments remove reference to liability.* Recent author amendments, dated March 5, 2026, remove language that explicitly stated electric utilities (both electric IOUs and POUs) are not liable for any damage or injury caused by a portable solar generation device. According to the author:

The author's amendments removed superfluous utility liability language, as existing California law already establishes utility liability. Plug-and-play solar devices are owned and installed by the customer and as such, they are subject to the same liability provisions of other consumer appliances where the manufacturer of the device is, generally speaking, liable for malfunctions, as determined by the courts. The intent of SB 868 is to clear the way for greater adoption of small portable solar devices while ensuring that these technologies are safe for consumers to use. The intent of the bill is to neither to expand nor reduce utility liability beyond what current law already provides.

*Dual Referral.* Should this bill be approved by this committee, it will be re-referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

### **Prior/Related Legislation**

AB 2612 (Schultz, 2026) requires the Building Standards Commission, commencing with the next triennial edition of the Building Standards Code, to adopt, approve, codify, and publish mandatory standards for building electrical circuit features to enable qualified PIPV systems to function as an energy source within a residential dwellings or nonresidential development's electrical circuit, as specified. The bill is pending referral in the Assembly.

AB 2861 (Ting, Chapter 672, Statutes of 2016) authorized the CPUC to establish an expedited distribution grid interconnection dispute resolution process to resolve disputes within 60 days, unless it determines more time is needed.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

### **SUPPORT:**

Environmental Working Group (Sponsor)  
Caroline Torosis, City of Santa Monica Mayor  
350: Bay Area Action, Berkeley Hub, Conejo/San Fernando Valley, Humboldt,  
San Deigo, and Santa Barbara  
Abundance Network  
Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet

Active San Gabriel Valley  
Albany Climate Action Coalition  
Bay Area Clean Air Coalition  
Bright Saver  
California Alliance for Community Energy  
California Climate Voters  
California Environmental Voters  
California Interfaith Power & Light  
California Solar and Storage Association  
CalPIRG  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Community Energy  
Ceres, Inc.  
Citizens' Climate Lobby: Long Beach, Monterey County, and Santa Clarita  
Clean Coalition  
Climate Action: California, Campaign, and Mendocino  
Climate Crisis Workgroup of Grassroots Institute  
Climate Future California  
Climate Health Now Action Fund  
Coalition for Clean Air  
Community Environmental Council  
Community Renewable Solutions  
Cool the Earth  
Courageous Resistance of the Desert/Indivisible  
Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action  
Democratic Club of West Orange County  
Ecology Center  
Elders Climate Action: NoCal and SoCal Chapters  
Endangered Habitats League  
Environment California  
Environmental Justice  
Feather River Action!  
Fossil Free California  
Glendale Environmental Coalition  
Greenbank Associates  
Greenpeace USA  
GRID Alternatives  
Healing and Justice Center  
Humboldt Progressive Democrats  
Indivisible Santa Cruz County  
Interfaith Coalition for Earth Justice

Laudate Deum Prayer Network for Climate Healing  
Local Clean Energy Alliance  
Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition  
Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy  
Marin City Climate Resilience  
Morongo Basin Conservation Association  
Mothers Out Front Marin  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Neighbors for Progressive Action  
Orange County Environmental Justice  
Our Green Challenge  
Pacifica Climate Committee  
Pacifica Housing 4 All  
Pasadena-Foothills Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby  
Peace Action  
Peninsula Interfaith Climate Action  
Project Green Home  
Quantum Energy Systems  
QuitCarbon  
Reclaim Our Power: Utility Justice Campaign  
Recolte Energy  
Saddles That Fit  
Safe Alternatives for Our Forest Environment  
Samuel Lawrence Foundation  
San Diego Community Power  
San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace  
San Ramon Valley Climate Coalition  
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network  
SCV Eco Alliance  
Sierra Club California  
SLO Climate Coalition  
SocioEnergetics Foundation  
Solar Rights Alliance  
Sustainable: Mill Valley, Rossmoor, and San Mateo County  
Sustainable Systems Research Foundation  
The Climate Center  
The Climate Reality Project: Orange County and Silicon Valley Chapters  
The Energy Coalition  
The Phoenix Group  
Third ACT: San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento, and SoCal  
Tri Valley Air Quality Climate Alliance

U.S. Green Building Council  
Social Action Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City  
Vote Solar  
West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs  
Western Center on Law & Poverty  
Five Individuals

**OPPOSITION:**

California Municipal Utilities Association  
California Professional Firefighters, unless amended  
California State Association of Electrical Workers  
Coalition of California Utility Employees  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Locals: 6, 11, 100, 180, 302, 332, 340, 428, 441, 595, 617, 684, and 1245  
National Electrical Contractors Association  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
San Diego Gas and Electric Company  
Southern California Edison, unless amended  
Southern California Public Power Authority

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:** According to the Environmental Working Group and a coalition of dozens of supporters:

Californians need greater access to affordable and reliable electricity. ...Fortunately, California is not without solutions to help our state move forward. One of the most effective solutions is also the most obvious and the most politically popular: reduce red tape and expand access to the sun through “Balcony Solar”. This new technology, aka “plug-in solar,” involves small, portable solar panels that require nothing more than a patch of sunlight and a standard electrical outlet to immediately provide power for a home. Because the devices are small, affordable and portable they are especially promising for California renters, giving them increased access to the sun. Through SB 868, California can bring immediate utility bill relief to millions of households while contributing to the state’s clean energy goals. ...Yet, California utilities are already threatening to require, for even the smallest portable solar devices, interconnection agreements designed for larger, hard-wired systems. Utility interconnection will make Balcony Solar more expensive and time-consuming and put it out of reach for many California consumers before the technology reaches the market. ...Growing consumer access to solar energy via modernizing and reducing red tape for Balcony Solar will lower energy bills,

especially for renters, diversify energy resources, reduce strain on the electric grid, and help cut air pollution. For these and many other reasons, we enthusiastically support SB 868.

**ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:** Several union locals of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) express multiple concerns about the safety risks of the plug-in solar devices and the prohibition on interconnection and other requirements as proposed by the bill, including potential for electric shock, fires, circuits overloading, and other safety hazards. IBEW Local Union 6 states:

It is also important to note that this policy approach remains largely untested nationwide. To date, only one state, Utah, has enacted legislation recognizing plug in solar devices in statute, and even there implementation concerns have emerged. Similar bills are pending in other states, where electrical professionals, fire safety experts, contractors, and code officials have raised serious concerns regarding fire risk, shock hazards, breaker masking, anti-islanding reliability, and the lack of clear installation and inspection standards. California should not move forward ahead of fully developed national safety standards or bypass its established regulatory processes based on limited and unsettled experiments elsewhere.

**-- END --**