

## **NASUCA Panel: Consumer Advocates as Leaders of Climate Policy**

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# **How TURN Leads on Climate Policy in California**

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### **TURN Organizational Summary**

- 1) Small experienced staff.
  - a. Staff of nine energy & telecom attorneys, most with 12–23 years tenure at TURN.
  - b. Total staff of 15. Supplemented with policy expert consultants.
- 2) Independent non-profit founded in 1973.
  - a. Legal advocacy, legislative action, community organizing, communications.
- 3) Partnerships with wide range of energy/telecom policy advocates.
  - a. Strategic partnership with state advocate: Office of Ratepayer Advocate.

### **Policy Leadership Requires Us to:**

- 1) Drive energy policy debate and outcomes
  - a. Not just responding to utility filings or proposals.
- 2) Lead at the cutting edge of energy policy: Climate policy.
  - a. Beyond revenue requirements/rate design/consumer protection.
- 3) Develop consumer policy proposals distinct from utility and renewable industries.
  - a. Winning support from broad range of interested parties.

### **Most Green for the Least Green**

- 1) How do we the greatest carbon reduction at the ratepayer value?
  - a. Reducing energy consumption is cheapest strategy to reduce GHG: EE programs.
- 2) How do we generate renewable energy at affordable prices?
  - a. Price stability of sun and wind as fuel versus price volatility of gas.
- 3) How do we expand corporate accountability from utility and renewable industries.
  - a. Balance solar rooftop incentives without shifting costs to non-solar customers.

### **Renewable Portfolio Standards—Leadership in Legislative Arena**

- 1) TURN has been instrumental in adoption of RPS policy in 2002, 2006 & 2011.
  - a. Developed concept, drafted language, partnered with authors.
- 2) Inclusion of key ratepayer protections to 33% renewable goal by 2020.
  - a. Market Price Referent. Pricing benchmarks.
  - b. Deferring utility compliance penalties if prices too high.
  - c. Consumers pay only for power delivered, not when contracts are signed.
  - d. Impose 25% cap on compliance with undeliverable Renewable Energy Credits.
- 3) Winning support of utilities, renewables, enviros, generators, electeds, regulators.
  - a. Worst strategy to reach consensus is to put everybody in the same room.
  - b. Most effective winning strategy is series of bilateral one-on-one discussions.

### **Climate Dividend Distribution—Leadership in Regulatory Arena**

- 1) CPUC: How to return to residential ratepayers money collected for carbon permits.
  - a. Utilities wanted to base rebate upon average monthly kilowatt hours or bills.
  - b. Higher rebates to customers with higher bills.
- 2) Consumer advocates partnered with environmental advocates to win CPUC ruling:
  - a. Every residential customer receives \$30–\$40 rebate twice a year.
  - b. Higher impact/proportional benefit to low use/low income customers.

### **Green Option—Leadership in Utility Arena**

- 1) PG&E submitted an application to offer investment in green energy at a premium.
  - a. Relied primarily on purchasing undeliverable Renewable Energy Credits.
  - b. TURN succeeded in defeating PG&E similar Green Option proposal.
- 2) TURN offered PG&E the opportunity to revise their proposal to gain our support.
  - a. Revised their application to develop new local renewable generation.
  - b. Revised PG&E Green Option adopted by CPUC.
  - c. Southern California Edison is working with TURN to submit their Green Option.

### **Climate Policy Leadership for Consumer Advocates**

- 1) Lead in multiple arenas.
  - a. Legislative.
  - b. Regulatory.
  - c. Utilities.
- 2) Build strategic partnerships.
  - a. Environmental advocates.
  - b. Labor advocates.
  - c. Community advocates.
- 3) Position consumer interests as unique and distinct from any other party's.