# Cheryl Mulholland

May 2, 2026
Dear Members of the California Air Resources Board,
I am writing to express deep frustration and growing outrage over the continued rise in electricity costs in California and the role regulatory decisions play in driving those increases.
At some point, the cost burden placed on residents has crossed from difficult to unreasonable. Families and small businesses are being forced to absorb relentless rate hikes while having little to no say in the policies that contribute to them. The reality is simple: electricity in California is becoming unaffordable for many of the very people your policies are supposed to serve.
While environmental goals are important, they cannot be pursued in a vacuum. The current approach appears disconnected from the financial realities facing everyday Californians. Ratepayers should not be treated as an unlimited funding source for layered programs, mandates, and long-term initiatives without clear accountability for cost control.
It is unacceptable that:
• Electricity rates continue to climb faster than inflation and income growth
• The full consumer cost of regulatory decisions is not clearly communicated upfront
• There is insufficient coordination to prevent overlapping policies from compounding costs
I urge CARB to take immediate, tangible steps to address this issue:
• Conduct and publish transparent, comprehensive cost-impact analyses before advancing new regulations
• Prioritize affordability as a core objective—not an afterthought
• Work with utilities and other agencies to identify and eliminate unnecessary cost drivers
• Reevaluate policies that disproportionately burden middle- and lower-income households
Californians deserve energy policies that are both environmentally responsible and economically realistic. Right now, that balance is not being achieved.
I expect CARB to acknowledge the severity of this issue and take meaningful action to ensure that essential energy remains accessible and affordable.

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