

JOSH HARDER
10TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
BIOTECHNOLOGY, HORTICULTURE, AND RESEARCH

LIVESTOCK AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

209 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4540-PHONE
(202) 225-3402-FAX

4701 SISK ROAD, SUITE 202
MODESTO, CA 95356
(209) 579-5458-PHONE
(209) 702-8569-FAX
harder.house.gov

November 4, 2021

Marybel Batjer
President
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Batjer,

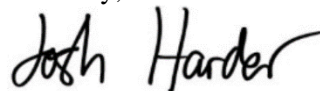
Thank you for your work to oversee California's public utilities, implementing wildfire prevention measures. I write today to urge an immediate change to shutoff policies that are leaving our vulnerable populations in the dark, especially the elderly and disabled, who rely on power sources for vital medical needs.

People depend on power for life-or-death medical energy needs, meaning outages have deadly consequences. When only a quarter of elderly Americans who use electric-dependent medical equipment [have access to an alternative source of power](#), we must do better ensure these populations are given advance notice of these outages and provide them with alternative sources of power. The timing and duration of power shutoffs, also known as Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) events, are a vital part of keeping our families safe especially for those who depend power for essential medical equipment, such as people who need an elevator to enter or exit their homes and those refrigerating prescriptions.

As you consider additional regulations requiring public utility companies to expand who qualifies for advanced notifications and assistance during power outages, I urge you to expand these notifications to all medically vulnerable populations, including people who live in multi-family homes and use elevators to leave their homes as well populations with refrigerated medications. You must equip every customer, especially the medically vulnerable, with the appropriate backup power supply to meet their medical needs during a PSPS event.

Thank you, President Batjer, for your past work on this issue and I look forward to your response on this critical matter.

Sincerely,



Josh Harder
Member of Congress