

**Rich Gordon**  
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July 23, 2021

The Honorable Marybel Batjer, President  
The Honorable Cliff Rechtschaffen, Commissioner  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**RE: Rulemaking 21-03-010—LGBT Business Enterprises Opportunities Under AB 1678**

Dear President Batjer and Commissioner Rechtschaffen:

On March 26 of this year, I wrote to you to request that the Commission not adopt the low target of only 0.5 percent for Lesbian Gay Transgender Business Enterprises, which was proposed by a group of utility companies known as the “Joint Utilities,” in the above-captioned proceeding.

As the author of AB 1678 (Gordon, 2014), I characterized the Joint Utilities Proposal of only 0.5% as “an insult to the LGBTQ community.”

I am writing again, because I was shocked and distressed to learn that in a report issued on Friday, July 16, the Commission’s own Staff have proposed that *no goal at all be established for LGBT-owned business enterprises for another four years.*

I remind you that AB 1678 was enacted seven years ago, in 2014. If the Commission were to adopt the new Staff Proposal, there would be no goal for LGBT-owned business enterprises until at least the year 2025 – eleven years after enactment of AB 1678.

As the author of AB 1678, I can assure you that no member of the Legislature in 2014 could have conceived that it might take the Commission more than a decade to adopt an aspirational goal for LGBT-owned business enterprises.

I earnestly request that the Commission please do the right thing, by adopting an aspirational goal of at least 1.5% for LGBT-owned business enterprises. There are ample LGBTEs in the pipeline to justify such a goal, and these businesses possess the diversity of skills the utilities need.

Please do not adopt your Staff’s proposal to postpone still further the adoption of an aspirational goal for LGBT-owned business enterprises.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Richard Gordon  
California State Assembly (Retired)