

October 9, 2019
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Dear Governor Newsom:

I am concerned about PG&E. Today's plan to cut off my power brought them to mind. Power distribution is fundamentally ill suited to private management with competition minimal, demand curves steep and the public costs of errors broad and even deadly. This company has a long history of cutting maintenance corners and wreaking public havoc while paying top dollar for its management and lobbying teams (eg Prop 16) and charging its customers similarly. Cheap maintenance has caused the contamination of Hinckley's drinking water, the explosion of a pipeline in San Bruno and the incineration of Paradise. Current spending is only by order of Judge Alsup overseeing their second bankruptcy. As you pointed out earlier this year the latest management team knows Wall Street but not California utilities while the new chief executive Mr Johnson has managed to extract 44 million for one day at one utility and to destroy a nuclear reactor by cutting corners for another.

Please assure me that you will move toward state control of power distribution.

I am very proud to be a California resident and a large part of that derives from our sensible progressive government.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson