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California State Senate

SENATOR
TED W. LIEU
TWENTY-EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT

CHAIR
BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MEMBER
AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
INSURANCE
VETERANS AFFAIRS

September 15, 2013

Theodore F. Craver, Jr.
Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer
Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove Ave.
Rosemead, CA 91770

Via mail and fax (626-302-2117)

Dear Mr. Craver:

Five years ago, when I was in the State Assembly, an excessive number of power outages occurred in the South Bay. I proposed legislation to hold utility companies liable for monetary damages from power outages if three or more power outages occurred in the same area within a year. (*Daily Breeze*, Assemblyman Ted Lieu drafts power outage penalties, March 2, 2008). As a result, Southern California Edison officials met with representatives of the South Bay cities and me to address this problem. Edison committed to me, and to the South Bay representatives, to fix the problem. I trusted Edison's word and did not introduce legislation holding utilities liable for repeated power outages in the same area.

It has now been five years and the problem has not been fixed. Five years is more than enough time for Edison to fulfill its commitment to me and the South Bay Cities. Numerous power outages continue to plague the South Bay, including cities such as Manhattan Beach and Hermosa Beach. Today, another massive power outage affected over 115,000 residents, including Torrance, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills, Redondo Beach, northwest San Pedro, and Lomita. In addition to causing disruption in homes, these outages have also hurt numerous businesses. (*Los Angeles Times*, South Bay businesses, residents cope with power outage, September 15, 2013). Edison has caused unnecessary pain and economic loss to the South Bay.

I am asking you to honor Edison's promise and to fix these power outage problems immediately. I am disappointed Edison's representatives continue to use the same tired excuses of "palm fronds," "metallic balloons," "weather," and other purported acts of God as the reason for the outages. (*Daily Breeze*, Frequent power outages spark outrage in Manhattan Beach, June 5, 2013). These "palm frond" excuses are the same unacceptable excuses Edison used five years ago. Palm fronds are all over Southern California. But unlike, say Rancho Palos Verdes, which has had about 105 power outages from 2000 - 2010 (that's around one outage every month for ten years), other areas in your jurisdiction that also have palm fronds do not experience a similar number of massive power outages.

Perhaps one or two power outages can be blamed on others or on nature, but when it is multiple power outages occurring in the same general area over a prolonged period of time, *then the problem is a direct result of either a design failure or an infrastructure failure, or both, caused by Southern California Edison.*

I therefore request the following. First, disclose what design fixes or infrastructure improvements Edison accomplished in the last five years, including the location of those improvements and the cost of those improvements. Second, provide your plan as to how Edison intends to fix immediately the massive, recurring, and unacceptable power outages in the South Bay.

Edison's continued denial of the scope of the problem, reliance on outdated excuses, and failure to honor its word has been deeply troubling. I look forward to your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ted W. Lieu".

TED W. LIEU
Senator, 28th District

cc:

Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi
South Bay Cities
Public Utilities Commission