



SAN FRANCISCO  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE *Where smart business starts.*

**Steven B. Falk**  
President & CEO

August 4, 2008

The San Francisco Ballot Simplification Committee  
c/o Barbara Carr  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: "Clean Energy Act" ballot language

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the citizens of San Francisco. In line with Chair Packard's question on Friday of "what does the voter need to know", the Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests that the Committee amend "The Proposal" section, first paragraph to read:

Proposition \_\_\_ is a Charter Amendment that would require the PUC to evaluate the benefits of making the City the primary provider of electric power in San Francisco, and allow the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to issue revenue bonds, without additional voter approval, for the purchase of any utility facilities. ~~including cost savings and control over development of clean energy and energy efficiency.~~

Since the most significant change to the Charter is the change in bonding authority, the voters should know this up front as opposed to the last paragraph in the Proposal description. By changing the language as suggested above, the voters are given the two key elements of the proposal in the summary section – 1) the PUC evaluation requirement and 2) the change in bonding authority.

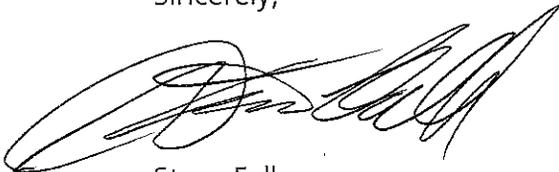
The most enduring change, if this legislation were to pass, will be the permanent shift in revenue bonding authority that would immediately and permanently remove from the voters their authority to authorize revenue bonds for the purchase of any utility facilities going forward. Regardless of what happens with the study, this change in revenue bonding authority will take place.

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The Board of Supervisors currently has the authority to do everything else articulated in the Charter Amendment, including requesting a study or setting renewable energy goals, either by resolution or ordinance. In addition, while we appreciate the City's desire to set aggressive renewable energy goals, these goals will be no more enforceable than the requirement that the City have 1971 full duty sworn police officers (SF Charter Section 4.127) or that MUNI have a 85% on-time performance (SF Charter Section 8A.103).

We think it is imperative that the committee provide voters the two primary Charter changes in the opening summary section of the "Proposal" section. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Falk', written in a cursive style.

Steve Falk