

## Sample Letter from Sonoma County Contractors

- Send letters to your U.S. Representative, U.S. Senator, and members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the House Financial Services Committee; the Committee on Energy and Commerce; and the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- Find and contact your U.S. Representative at <https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>
- Find and contact your U.S. Senator at [http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)
- (Print your letter on your company letterhead; please cc your email message to: [SaveSCEIP@gmail.com](mailto:SaveSCEIP@gmail.com))

### Names of Congressional Representatives:

Sen. Barbara Boxer

Email: <https://boxer.senate.gov/en/contact/policycomments.cfm>

1700 Montgomery St., Suite 240  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
(415) 403-0100  
(202) 224-0454 fax

Sen. Dianne Feinstein

Email: <http://feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=ContactUs.Emailme>

One Post Street, Suite 2450  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
Phone: (415) 393-0707  
Fax: (415) 393-0710

Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey

Email: <http://woolsey.house.gov/contactemailform.asp>

1101 College Avenue  
Suite 200  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
Ph.: 707-542-7182  
Fax: 707-542-2745

Congressman Mike Thompson

Email: <http://mikethompson.house.gov/contact/email.shtml>

1040 Main Street, Suite 101  
Napa, CA 94559  
Phone: (707) 226-9898  
Fax: (707) 251-9800

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi

235 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
[AmericanVoices@mail.house.gov](mailto:AmericanVoices@mail.house.gov)

### **Names of Congressional Committee Members**

- The Honorable Christopher Dodd Chairman  
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

e-mail (staff contact): [beth\\_cooper@banking.senate.gov](mailto:beth_cooper@banking.senate.gov) [misha\\_roth@banking.senate.gov](mailto:misha_roth@banking.senate.gov)

The Honorable Jeffrey Bingaman, Chairman  
Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member  
**Energy & Natural Resources Committee**

U. S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

- The Honorable Barney Frank, Chairman  
Committee on Financial Services  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

e-mail (staff contact): [scott.olson@mail.house.gov](mailto:scott.olson@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Henry Waxman, Chairman  
Rep. Joe Barton, Ranking Member  
**Energy & Commerce Committee**

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

## Sonoma County PACE Action Kit

July X, 2010

Dear Member of Congress:

As the [NAME AND TITLE OF COMPANY OWNER OR STAFF], I am writing to ask for your urgent support for legislation that guarantees local government the right to establish clean energy programs, known as Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE). PACE is a local government solution that helps home and building owners finance energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements and is supported by a century of legal and historical precedent for special assessment districts, including more than 37,000 districts that have been used to finance sewers, sidewalks, and other projects that serve a public purpose.

I strongly believe that recent actions by federal regulators infringe upon state and local power to define the “public good” within the context of national and global issues and use assessment districts to serve the public good. PACE is good for our nation’s housing industry and mortgage investors. The regulators disagree. We must protect our state and local powers and let the facts and data from our nation’s PACE pilot programs determine who is correct.

Since March 2009, the Sonoma County Energy Independence Program, our local PACE program, has served the community enabling the completion of over 1,000 solar and efficiency projects and generating over eight percent job growth in the construction industry. We have proven the PACE model works. We need your help to ensure it will continue to facilitate job creation and energy savings for years to come.

On July 13, 2010, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors voted to keep our PACE program going in the face of the financing regulators threats to default mortgages of individual property owners who obtain a PACE assessment and our community by imposing stricter lending criteria for everyone. I urge you to support legislation so our nation’s PACE pilot programs can proceed.

In just the past two years, twenty-two states have passed laws enabling local governments to develop PACE programs (CA, CO, FL, GA, IL, LA, ME, MD, MN, MO, NV, NH, NM, NY, NC, OH, OK, OR, TX, VT, VA, WI). State and local governments have embraced PACE because of its tremendous potential to cut energy bills, increase homeowner cash flow for mortgage payments, reduce mortgage default risk, create tens of thousands of local jobs and dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions by spurring investment in clean energy improvements. PACE has received strong bipartisan support nationwide – in red states and blue states – because creating jobs, saving energy and reducing utility bills for families and businesses is important to all Americans.

Our nation’s PACE programs were set to launch a 24 month pilot period this summer, funded by \$150 million in grants from the Department of Energy, incorporating safety and soundness consumer and lender protections that were developed by a White House led inter-agency working group consisting of HUD, NEC, OMB, CEQ and DOE.

Unfortunately, despite PACE’s great promise, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC, collectively the “Regulators”) issued recent statements blocking our nation’s PACE pilot programs. The Regulators action is a direct challenge to state and local powers to levy tax assessments for a public purpose and wrongly asserts that the consumer and lender protections were not sufficient. The DOE funded PACE programs have been specifically designed to help the mortgage market yet the Regulators statements simply rehashed old concerns that were cured. Because of FHFA’s oversight of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and OCC’s influence

Sonoma County PACE Action Kit

over our nation's banks, the statements forced existing PACE programs to halt and froze the ability to launch PACE programs already under development nationwide.

Congress, which chartered Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and which established FHFA & OCC, must quickly intervene to pass legislation that guarantees the right of state and local government to form special assessment districts to promote clean energy programs and restore the promise of PACE.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Company]