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December 9, 2009

Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814
[Fax: (916) 323-2263]

Thank you for Standing Up for California's Diverse Communities

Dear Senate President Steinberg:

On behalf of California's 25 million minorities, thank you for your courageous leadership in standing up for California's minority and low income consumers by rejecting the nomination of Rachele Chong as CPUC Commissioner.

We firmly believe that your decision to reject Rachele Chong's hearing for a second term on the CPUC is a powerful expression of your principles and belief in fairness, independent investigation of the facts, and making decisions based upon the merits of a case. We are gratified that you have heard loud and clear that Rachele Chong does not represent our communities.


California's most underserved communities have been hurt long enough by people who may look like us, but who clearly do not represent our interests. Time and time again, Rachele Chong refused to stand up for California's most vulnerable consumers. As phone bills became increasingly more unaffordable to the poorest of the poor, Rachele Chong stood by and watched it happen. As minority-owned small businesses pleaded for her engagement, she flatly told them, "I am not here to enforce quotas."

Over the last few years, the economic downturn has disproportionately impacted California's diverse communities. When California's diverse communities needed a guardian and a champion, Rachele Chong deferred that responsibility. We need a Commissioner who will not defer this responsibility. We need a leader who is unafraid to be a guardian and champion for California's underserved and diverse communities.

Please ask the governor to appoint a CPUC Commissioner who understands the diverse needs of California's ratepayers and small businesses, committed to protecting low income consumers, and can further advance the CPUC's leadership towards a sustainable and inclusive green economy.

Thank you for your courage and for being a champion of California's underserved and diverse communities!

Sincerely,


Samuel Kang, Managing Attorney
Greenlining Institute