# Criticism Mounts Over California's New Electricity Billing Scheme and LGBTQ+ Flag Lawsuit



**California Faces Criticism Over New Electricity Billing Scheme**

**June 3, 2024 - Los Angeles, CA**

Residents of California have voiced their concerns over a new electricity billing scheme introduced by the state's major utilities, including Southern California Edison. The plan, which involves a fixed monthly fee of $24.15 for most customers and a reduction in per-kilowatt hour charges, has been criticized for its potential impact on conservation efforts.

Daniel Loftin from Long Beach criticized the scheme, arguing that it discourages conservation by benefiting high-energy users while imposing higher costs on low-energy consumers. The fixed fee means even those who have invested in solar panels will still face higher bills despite contributing power to the grid.

**Issues with Implementation**

Georgette Herget from El Segundo highlighted practical issues with the new scheme. She points out the irony in utility companies suggesting outdoor grilling to save electricity, despite fire codes restricting such activities on most balconies.

Hal Drake from Santa Barbara questions whether the scheme aligns with California's broader environmental goals, referencing Governor Gavin Newsom’s recent climate speech at the Vatican.

**Lifeguard Files Lawsuit Over LGBTQ+ Pride Flag**

In a related issue, an L.A. County lifeguard has filed a lawsuit against the county, claiming emotional distress caused by an LGBTQ+ Pride flag displayed near his station. This action has sparked a debate about inclusivity and representation in public spaces.

Dean Pratt from Los Angeles and Jeffrey Stewart from Los Angeles expressed concerns over the lifeguard's intolerance towards the LGBTQ+ community, questioning his suitability for a public safety role. Stewart also raised concerns over the financial compensation of lifeguards, revealing that the plaintiff earned $210,000 last year while also working as a financial planner.

Rodney Kemerer from Beverly Hills suggested limiting flag displays on public property to the American flag to avoid such conflicts.

These issues highlight ongoing debates in California regarding environmental policies and inclusivity in public spaces.