

# The San Diego Union-Tribune.

*Letters to the Editor: Wednesday, May 19, 2010*

## **There's a Better Way Than Sunrise Powerlink**

Is it really necessary to run a power line at a cost of \$1.9 billion and the additional expense of the destruction to our environment to get clean energy to San Diego (“SDG&E to buy power from solar farm,” May 14)?

This is a zero-value-added cost item, since it is only money for a big cable. Why not take advantage of the grid already in place by putting the \$1.9 billion into financing rooftop solar for San Diego homeowners and businesses? This move could deliver the same return on investment or better to SDG&E and not require running a single new mile of transmission line at the expense of the environment.

We have solar on our home and it works great. After rebates and tax credits, it costs about \$4 a watt. That \$1.9 billion could buy almost 500 million watts of solar power installed.

If SDG&E made the money available at 6 percent, its return would be the same. The homeowners would see their utility bills almost eliminated. At an average of 4kw per roof top, that would be enough solar to power about 100,000 homes and businesses.

### **HAROLD LABONTE**

*Carlsbad*

According to your news story, “The cost of the \$1.9 billion project will be paid by California electricity power users, and SDG&E stands to benefit from its construction.” Similarly, SDG&E will have smart meters, the cost and installation of which will be borne by the ratepayers and become the property of SDG&E. What happened to the old economy concept that shareholders, not customers, used their money to finance and improve the company's assets?

### **PHILIP BORKAT**

*La Mesa*