



April 4, 2024

The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris, Chair  
Committee on Utilities and Energy  
California State Assembly  
1020 N Street, Room 408A  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 3246 (Garcia) – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Petrie-Norris,

The California Energy Storage Alliance (CESA), California Wind Energy Association (CalWEA), Independent Energy Producers Association (IEP), Large-scale Solar Association (LSA), and the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) write to express our strong support for AB 3246 (Garcia).

This bill would enable the Public Utilities Commission to approve the advanced reconductoring of existing electrical transmission facilities through the Commission's informal advice letter process, thus significantly reducing the timeframe for these beneficial upgrade projects to be approved and completed. The bill would also extend an existing exemption of the Permit to Construct under General Order 131-D to include advanced reconductoring on existing rights-of-way.

Advanced reconductoring is the process of replacing existing power lines with advanced conductors, which use improved conductive material that improves the power line's capacity, efficiency, and strength. Such reconductoring can cost-effectively and relatively quickly double transmission capacity within an existing right-of-way, thus causing minimal environmental impacts.

While substantial expansion of our transmission grid is necessary to reach new renewable resource areas, advanced reconductoring can quickly increase capacity on the existing grid, reducing congestion and curtailments, and enabling more clean energy resources to interconnect. Given the 10-year lead-time to plan and build new transmission, creating additional capacity in the meantime will be vital to maintain progress towards the state's clean energy goals. Moreover, making more efficient use of the existing grid will reduce overall transmission needs, thereby minimizing costs and promoting affordable electricity rates.

Our associations urge your support of this important bill.

Rachel McMahon, Vice President, Policy  
California Energy Storage Alliance

Nancy Rader, Executive Director  
California Wind Energy Association

Jan Smutny-Jones, CEO & General Counsel  
Independent Energy Producers Association

Shannon Eddy, Executive Director  
Large-scale Solar Association

Stephanie Doyle, California State Affairs Director  
Solar Energy Industries Association

cc: Members and Staff, Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee  
The Honorable Eduardo Garcia