



California Wind Energy Association

February 13, 2020

The Honorable James Gallagher
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3147
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1941 (Gallagher) – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Gallagher:

The California Wind Energy Association (CalWEA) is a 20-year-old trade association representing wind energy and related companies focused on the California market, primarily consisting of project owners, operators and developers of wind energy projects located in California.

We write to express our opposition to your bill, AB 1941, which would, in part, make hydroelectric and nuclear energy generating facilities eligible resources under the California Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) Program, suspend the RPS Program unless the CPUC makes unspecified factual determinations, and direct the CPUC to use the amount saved by an electrical corporation to improve its transmission and distribution infrastructure to minimize the risk of wildfire ignition.

CalWEA of course shares your objective of ensuring that investments are made in our T&D infrastructure to reduce wildfire risks, and we are pleased that the Legislature has directed our utilities to harden their systems to that end. Those risks are also exacerbated, however, by climate change, which the RPS Program has successfully addressed by reducing California's reliance on fossil fuels. The Legislative Analyst's Office issued a report earlier this month that concluded, "the RPS program is likely a significant driver of emission reductions at relatively moderate costs per ton [of greenhouse gases]." Therefore, suspending the RPS program and, when reinstated, substantially weakening it by enabling existing resources to count towards its goals would be counterproductive.

Moreover, PG&E has not procured renewable energy for several years due to the growth of community choice aggregation, and it is not forecasted to procure for at least the next six years. Therefore, PG&E would not accrue any savings from the suspension of the RPS program that could be applied to the transmission system. In any case, there is no logical connection between the RPS program and T&D investments that would justify sacrificing the former for the latter.

For these reasons, we respectfully oppose your AB 1941.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Rader". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Rader
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy
