



April 4, 2024

The Honorable Steven Bradford, Chair
Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 3350
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 1006 (Padilla) – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Bradford,

The California Wind Energy Association (CalWEA), Independent Energy Producers Association (IEP), Large-scale Solar Association (LSA), and the American Clean Power Association (ACP) write to express our strong support for SB 1006 (Padilla), the Grid Modernization and Enhancement Act.

This bill would require utilities to prepare a joint strategic plan for the cost-effective and timely implementation of “grid-enhancing technologies” (GETs) and to evaluate reconductoring with advanced conductors. GETs are hardware and software that monitor and control energy flow and transmission capacity, improving the reliability, safety, and efficiency of existing power lines. Advanced conductors use improved conductive material in power lines that improve the line’s capacity, efficiency, and strength. These advanced technologies will enable the rapid expansion of transmission capacity at a fraction of the cost of building new transmission infrastructure.

While substantial expansion of our transmission grid is necessary to reach new renewable resource areas, GETs and 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, and each transmission addition, 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, Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
The Honorable Steve Padilla