



California Wind Energy Association

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Kevin de León
California Senate President pro Tempore
California State Senate
State Capitol, 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 584 – Support

Dear Senator de León,

The California Wind Energy Association (CalWEA) is a 17-year-old trade association representing wind energy companies focused on the California market. CalWEA is pleased to support your Senate Bill 584, which would raise the state's Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirement to 100% by 2045, and advance the date for achieving the 50% RPS.

CalWEA is particularly pleased that your bill would advance the 50% RPS target date from 2030 to 2025. Ironically, the fact that California's utilities have met their 33% RPS goals in advance threatens many of California's earliest wind energy projects, whose power purchase contracts are now expiring at a time when there is little near-term demand for renewable electricity and energy market prices are very low. Advancing the 50% target date to 2025 will help revitalize the near-term market.

Your goal of fully decarbonizing the electric sector by 2045 is in keeping with studies showing that it will be far more difficult to address greenhouse gas emissions in other sectors of the economy. Thus, achieving 80% GHG reductions by 2050, which is necessary to stabilize the climate, will require eliminating carbon emissions from the electric sector. CalWEA is confident that a 100% RPS by 2045 is technically achievable. California is ahead of schedule in meeting its 2020 33% RPS goal because it has successfully met the challenges associated with renewable energy resources. Planning now for a 100% RPS will ensure a smooth and efficient transition to a carbon-free electricity future.

Thank you for your commitment to addressing the unprecedented threat of climate change by ensuring that California remains a leader in demonstrating to the world that this threat can be tackled while maintaining a vibrant clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

Nancy Rader
Executive Director