



June 15, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy and Members of the California Delegation:

We write as Members of the California Legislature to respectfully request that you take immediate steps to support the clean energy industry in the State of California. Supporting this vital industry will protect hundreds of thousands of jobs, promote economic recovery, enhance our energy resiliency, help us respond to devastating wildfires, and is critical to California's efforts to address climate change.

As you are well aware, the COVID-19 crisis has dramatically impacted our state. We appreciate your leadership in working to protect public health and address the devastating economic impact of this crisis and look forward to partnering closely with you in the coming months.

As we seek to rebuild our economy, it is critical that we consider the contributions and needs of California's clean energy workforce. In March 2020 alone, more than 100,000 clean energy jobs were lost in the U.S.—nearly 20,000 of those jobs were in California. In order to ensure continued progress toward California's climate change and energy resiliency goals, we must ensure that clean energy workers and businesses have the tools to emerge from this crisis and restore those jobs as quickly as possible.

REBUILDING LOCAL JOBS

There are over 500,000 jobs in the clean energy industry across California, with small businesses accounting for more than half of those jobs. While jobs in renewable energy and energy efficiency make up the vast majority, thousands of Californians also work in clean transportation, energy storage, and grid modernization. Unfortunately, the clean energy industry is being greatly harmed by delivery delays, employee absences, supply chain disruptions, financing challenges, and project cancellations and postponements due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Every part of the clean energy sector is being harmed, including through diminished sales and manufacturing of electric vehicles, stoppages of energy efficiency retrofits and construction, and delays and cancellations of rooftop solar and energy storage projects.

For example, the solar industry is projected to lose as many as 120,000 jobs—almost half of the industry's workforce. Forty percent of those jobs are in California.

Clean energy jobs that rely on investments in rooftop solar systems or electric vehicle charging infrastructure are local jobs that benefit communities throughout California. Investments in clean energy equal investments in neighborhoods, schools, farms, and other Main Street institutions. Importantly, the vast majority of these jobs are associated with projects that are also shovel ready and can be completed within weeks.

ENERGY RESILIENCY AS ECONOMIC RECOVERY

The urgency of this request is compounded by the threat posed by electricity blackouts due to extreme weather events. Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS), along with wildfires, have wreaked havoc on our state's economy. In the face of this threat, clean energy technologies, such as solar charged battery backup systems, can quite literally keep the lights on and our daily lives and enterprises functioning. The combination of Shelter in Place orders with widespread and prolonged blackouts would be devastating.

CONSUMER SAVINGS LEAD TO MULTIPLIER EFFECT

Clean energy technologies save money for families and businesses, leading to a powerful multiplier effect for every dollar invested. In the wake of COVID-19, helping consumers and businesses save on monthly energy bills would help our communities recover from financial loss and re-invest hard-earned dollars elsewhere in our economy. Congress can take steps today to ensure that our clean energy industry, an engine of job growth heading into the crisis, recovers and continues to grow.

CLEAN AIR GOALS

Switching to clean energy reduces air pollution and improves public health, including respiratory health. As you know, California has an aggressive goal of 100% clean energy by 2045, and federal tax incentives are crucial to meeting that goal in ways that directly benefit homeowners and businesses.

CONCLUSION

Congress can support local clean energy jobs by considering the following immediate actions:

- Extend the investment tax credit for clean energy technologies, while also expanding eligibility to stand-alone energy storage projects;
- Provide direct payments of tax credits for the next 18 months and extend the safe harbor provisions and commence construction deadlines at credit levels currently in place for clean energy projects. These measures will ensure companies do not lose a productive year as credits decline. This will keep projects moving and prevent job losses and a dramatic contraction of the clean energy industry.
- Continue investments and incentives for the transition to electric vehicles.
- Extend and improve critical residential and commercial tax incentives for energy efficiency.

With smart federal policy, California's clean energy industry can weather the current crisis and continue to provide significant health, safety, and economic benefits to our communities.

We respectfully request that you help to direct these benefits to Californians across the Golden State through targeted investments in our clean energy economy. We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working closely with you to support our clean energy industry over the coming months.

Sincerely,



Jesse Gabriel
Assemblymember, 45th District



Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
Assemblymember, 16th District



Mark Berman
Assemblymember, 24th District



Richard Bloom
Assemblymember, 50th District



Tasha Boerner Horvath
Assemblymember, 76th District



Rob Bonta
Assemblymember, 18th District



David Chiu
Assemblymember, 17th District



Kansen Chu
Assemblymember, 25th District



Ken Cooley
Assemblymember, 8th District



Tom Daly
Assemblymember, 69th District



Tyler Diep
Assemblymember, 72nd District



Susan Eggman
Assemblymember, 13th District



Laura Friedman
Assemblymember, 43rd District



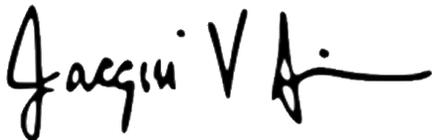
James Gallagher
Assemblymember, 3rd District



Monique Limon
Assemblymember, 37th District



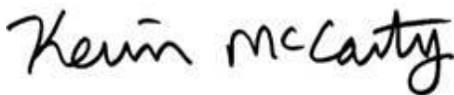
Eduardo Garcia
Assemblymember, 56th District



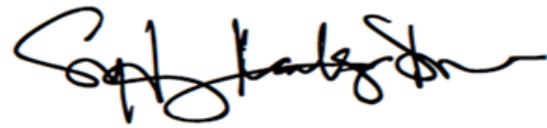
Jacqui Irwin
Assemblymember, 44th District



Reggie Jones-Sawyer
Assemblymember, 59th District



Kevin McCarty
Assemblymember, 7th District



Sydney Kamlager
Assemblymember, 54th District



Marc Levine
Assemblymember, 10th District



Evan Low
Assemblymember, 28th District



Ash Kalra
Assemblymember, 27th District



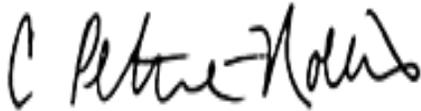
Kevin Mullin
Assemblymember, 22nd District



Al Muratsuchi
Assemblymember, 66th District



Adrin Nazarian
Assemblymember, 46th District



Cottie Pettrie-Norris
Assemblymember, 74th District



Bill Quirk
Assemblymember, 0th District



Sharon Quirk-Silva
Assemblymember, 65th District



Mark Stone
Assemblymember, 29th District



Eloise Reyes
Assemblymember, 47th District



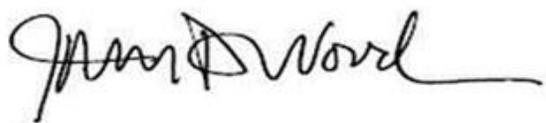
Luz Rivas
Assemblymember, 39th District



Robert Rivas
Assemblymember, 30th District



Blanca Rubio
Assemblymember, 48th District



Jim Wood
Assemblymember, 2nd District



Philip Ting
Assemblymember, 19th District



Jordan Cunningham
Assemblymember, 35th District



Phillip Chen
Assemblymember, 55th District



Ben Allen
State Senator, 26th District



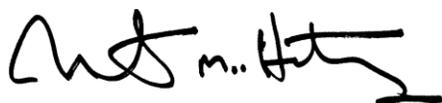
Bob Archuleta
State Senator, 32nd District



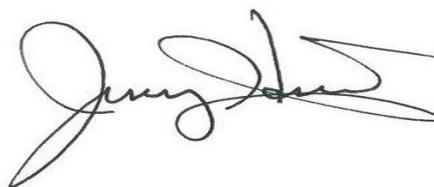
Jim Beall
State Senator, 15th District



Bill Dodd
State Senator, 3rd District



Bob Hertzberg
State Senator, 18th District



Jerry Hill
State Senator, 13th District



Hannah-Beth Jackson
State Senator, 19th District



Nancy Skinner
State Senator, 9th District



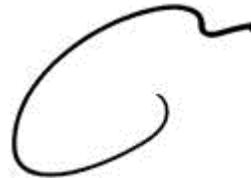
Tom Umberg
State Senator, 34th District



Scott Wilk
Senator Wilk, 21st District



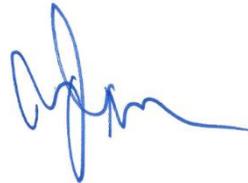
Henry Stern
State Senator, 27th District



Mike McGuire
State Senator, 2nd District



Robert Wiechowski
State Senator, 10th District



Chad Meyes
Assemblymember, 42nd District