



April 1, 2026

The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris, Chair
Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy
1020 N Street, Suite 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2493 (Petrie-Norris) – Clean Energy Interconnection Accountability – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Petrie-Norris:

On behalf of California’s leading clean energy trade associations, advocacy organizations, and developers, we write in strong support of AB 2493, which would hold California’s large investor-owned utilities (IOUs) accountable for widespread, costly delays in upgrading grid equipment needed to connect clean energy to the grid. This bill will help make electricity more affordable and reliable in California while advancing the state’s clean energy and climate goals.

Interconnection Backlogs Threaten California’s Clean Energy Transition

California has set an ambitious goal to decarbonize its power grid by 2045. Realizing this goal depends on our ability to connect new clean power generation quickly and affordably. As transmission owners, the large investor-owned utilities – PG&E, SCE and SDG&E – are responsible for upgrades to transformers, substations, power lines and other local components that are needed to connect new energy projects. Unfortunately, the IOUs are falling behind on those upgrades, delaying the addition of new power to the grid.

According to a 2025 CPUC report, the majority of PG&E (63%) and SCE (70%) transmission projects have been delayed, some for more than a decade.¹ While SDG&E reported no delays, the CPUC determined their data was “incomplete and inaccurate,” as it failed to include delayed projects that the CPUC identified via other sources. PG&E and SCE’s delayed projects alone are impacting nearly 22 GW worth of energy capacity – enough to power more than 16 million homes.

¹ CPUC [2025 Annual Renewables Portfolio Standard Report](#) (see SB 1174 assessment).

A UCS analysis also found a troubling pattern of delay across California’s major transmission projects.² On average, major transmission projects have taken an additional 6.1 years to complete, or more than double their original estimated completion time. None of the 10 completed projects in UCS’s dataset were finished on schedule.

It is important to address these delays now to ensure the maximum number of clean energy projects qualify for federal tax credits that start to expire in 2030. The tax credits come with serious savings, reducing costs by \$400 million to \$650 million per gigawatt of new solar or wind.³

AB 2493 Improves Transparency and Accountability to Bring Clean Energy Online Faster

AB 2493 will help stabilize electricity prices and keep California’s grid reliable by requiring the large IOUs to connect new clean energy projects faster.

First, AB 2493 sets a deadline for the large IOUs to initiate permitting for major grid upgrades. The IOUs are currently taking three years on average in the pre-application phase between CAISO approval and initiating permitting at the CPUC, often comprising the longest portion of a project’s development timeline and exceeding the permitting phase.⁴ Setting a one-year filing deadline will encourage earlier pre-application activity and reduce overall project timelines.

Second, the bill requires an independent auditor to assess the root causes of interconnection upgrade delays and report findings to the CPUC. This transparency is critical: as UCS’s analysis shows, the state’s existing processes rely heavily on IOU self-reporting, with no strict definitions for delay categories and limited supplemental information, making accountability difficult. An independent audit will provide the rigorous, consistent data that state regulators need to understand why projects are falling behind and what remedies will be most effective.

Third, AB 2493 requires the large IOUs to develop solutions aligned with the auditor’s findings, including facilitating advanced equipment procurement to mitigate supply chain constraints, expanding opportunities for entities other than the large IOUs to complete certain upgrades, and implementing a prioritization framework to fast-track upgrades that affect 100 MW or more of clean energy capacity.

Finally, the bill directs the CPUC to evaluate the large IOUs’ progress in addressing interconnection delays in their rate requests and cost of capital applications. This linkage between performance and rate recovery creates a meaningful financial incentive for the IOUs to prioritize the grid upgrades that California urgently needs.

Support a Clean, Reliable Grid

Californians deserve clean, affordable, and reliable electricity. AB 2493 takes a meaningful step toward ensuring that the infrastructure needed to deliver it is built on time. Thank you for your leadership in bringing it forward.

Sincerely,

Alex Jackson
Executive Director
American Clean Power- CA (Co-sponsor)

Daniel Barad
Associate Director, Western States
Union of Concerned Scientists (Co-sponsor)

² UCS [Understanding California’s Transmission Development Delays and Paths to Reform](#) (July 2025)

³ ACP-CA [Motion for Expedited Procurement](#) (July 21, 2025) at 6-8.

⁴ CPUC [Working Concepts in Transmission Financing and Ownership](#) (March 11, 2026) at 7.

Katelyn Roedner Sutter
Senior Director, California
Environmental Defense Fund

Jan Smutny-Jones
Chief Executive Officer
Independent Energy Producers Association

Shannon Eddy
Executive Director
Large-scale Solar Association

Scott Murtishaw
Executive Director
California Energy Storage Alliance

Stephanie Doyle
California Director
Solar Energy Industries Association

Nancy Rader
Executive Director
California Wind Energy Association

Marquis Mason
Legislative Advocate
Natural Resources Defense Council

Brandon Garcia
California Director
Advanced Energy United

Jakob Evans
Senior Policy Strategist
Sierra Club California

Suzanne Leta
Vice President, Policy and Advocacy
Fluence Energy Systems

Rachel McMahon
Director, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs
EDF Power Solutions

Jennifer Chamberlain
Government & Regulatory Affairs Director
ENGIE North America

Shannon Olivieri Hovis
Chief Strategy Officer
California Environmental Voters

Sheila M. Hallstrom
Business Development Officer
Ormat Technologies

Cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee
Laura Shybut, Chief Consultant, Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee
Chase Hopkins, Policy Consultant, Office of Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas