



California Wind Energy Association

April 2, 2018

The Honorable Christopher Holden
Chair, Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy
State Capitol Room 5136
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2809 (Patterson) 2/16/18 - Oppose

Dear Chair Holden,

The California Wind Energy Association (CalWEA) is an 18-year-old trade association representing wind energy companies focused on the California market, including owners and operators of projects located in California. CalWEA regrettably must oppose Assembly Bill 2809, which would revise the definition of an eligible renewable energy resource for the purposes of the California Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) Program to include hydroelectric generation facilities of greater than 30 megawatts.

According to Energy Commission statistics, existing large California hydropower resources supplied over 12% of California's in-state generation in 2016. Therefore, if this hydropower is made eligible under the RPS without raising the RPS requirement, it would undermine the goals of SB 350 (2015), which raised the RPS standard from 33% in 2020 to 50% in 2030. As a result, AB 2809 would immediately discourage the development of new renewable resources, which is a key objective of the RPS program.

While CalWEA is therefore opposed to AB 2809, we are nevertheless open to discussion regarding the inclusion of large hydro in any bills seeking to lower future carbon emissions in the electric sector, such as in SB 100 (De Leon).

Sincerely,

Nancy Rader
Executive Director

cc: Members and Staff, Assembly Committee on Utilities & Energy
Assembly Member Patterson
Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia