



California Wind Energy Association

March 30, 2021

The Honorable David Chiu
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4112
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 525 (Chiu) – Support

Dear Assemblyman Chiu,

The California Wind Energy Association (CalWEA) is a 21-year-old trade association representing wind energy and related companies focused on the California market, including owners and operators of wind energy projects located in California and companies promoting and pursuing development off California's coast.

CalWEA is pleased to support your bill, AB 525, which recognizes the urgent need for California to plan proactively for offshore wind energy development if it is to capture the substantial associated economic and grid-reliability benefits. As documented by the Energy Commission, these benefits include significantly reducing the cost of achieving California's SB 100 zero-carbon goals by diversifying the state's clean energy portfolio with a resource that complements solar energy production, thereby reducing the need for costly storage capacity and reducing technology risks associated with over-reliance on solar energy and batteries. Proactive planning is needed immediately to address the transmission, port, and other infrastructure development that will be required to develop offshore wind at the necessary scale of at least 10 GW by 2045, the amount of offshore wind that is anticipated to be needed by the Joint Agency SB 100 study.

CalWEA appreciates AB 525's reference to another set of economic benefits related to offshore wind development: benefits to California's skilled and trained construction workforce and benefits that could accrue from carefully planning for a California wind energy supply chain. To that end, we encourage you to consider amending the bill to recognize the ongoing efforts of the California Workforce Development Board to develop a plan for California offshore wind supply chain development that maximizes in-state "high road" job creation and minimizes the use of imported products and services. You may wish to include the Board among the agencies tasked with overall planning for offshore wind.

CalWEA also appreciates the bill's reference to the ability of subsea electricity transmission to reduce transmission congestion and provide transmission capacity for diverse clean energy development, which certainly includes offshore wind. To this end, we encourage

you to amend the bill to specifically direct the Public Utilities Commission, in consultation with the Independent System Operator, to assess the ability of subsea electricity transmission not only to access diverse clean energy resources, but also to reduce the risk of land-based transmission outages from wildfires, to reduce related insurance costs, and to provide the ability to charge batteries in transmission-constrained areas.

We would be pleased to discuss these ideas with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Rader". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nancy" being more prominent than the last name "Rader".

Nancy Rader
Executive Director

cc: Members and Staff, Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy
