



California Wind Energy Association

June 10, 2026

The Honorable Ben Allen, Chair
Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3350
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2111 (Papan) – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Allen,

On behalf of the California Wind Energy Association (CalWEA), I am writing to convey our support for AB 2111. This bill expands on the legislature’s directive to the California Public Utilities Commission to develop a “diverse and balanced portfolio of resources needed to ensure a reliable electricity supply that provides optimal integration of renewable energy in a cost-effective manner.” (Public Utilities Code §§ 454.51) Further amendments, however, are needed to strengthen and clarify the bill.

CalWEA’s wind energy industry members are focused on operating and developing wind energy resources within and directly interconnected to California, which bring reliability, economic, and workforce benefits to California.

AB 2111 would require the Commission, in its Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process that informs transmission planning by the California Independent System Operator, to bolster its resource planning process. The bill would do so by requiring the CPUC to develop a range of plausible future scenarios that consider numerous long-term risks and uncertainties that could raise costs for ratepayers and/or prevent the timely achievement of the state’s clean energy goals. Considering and quantifying these risks and uncertainties – rather than relying on a single scenario that assumes fixed future conditions – will promote transmission development that is robust across a range of plausible futures.

The lack of such planning has produced a resource portfolio that is heavily dependent on utility-scale solar and battery storage resources. In its most recent February 2026 IRP decision, the Commission expressed “the most concern” about the “massive amount of solar, and to some degree storage” in the portfolio that “could take extraordinary efforts to achieve.” The portfolio includes 69 GW of solar resources, representing 65 percent of its capacity. This heavy

reliance on solar requires a substantial amount – 31 GW – of storage, 81 percent of which is batteries. More robust planning would likely lead to a more diverse resource portfolio that hedges against the economic, reliability, and environmental risks associated with heavy reliance on just two resources and would increase the odds of achieving California’s aggressive clean energy goals. A more resource-diverse portfolio would also require far less storage, reducing overall capacity needs.

However, the bill should be strengthened and clarified in several ways. As examples, the term “near-term decisions” and “technical feasibility” should be defined, the interconnection queue should not be the sole means of determining promising resource areas, and all three portfolios submitted to CAISO should be “risk-prudent” so that transmission investments will be “risk-prudent.”

For these reasons, CalWEA urges your support of AB 2111.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Rader". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Nancy Rader
Executive Director
California Wind Energy Association
nrader@calwea.org

cc: Vice Chair Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh
Members of the Committee