



June 4, 2025

The Honorable Scott Wiener
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8620
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 607 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Wiener -

We write to express support for your efforts to improve the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process via concepts contained in Senate Bill 607 - which takes a critical step in ensuring that renewable energy projects can be reviewed fairly and thoroughly via CEQA.

As contemplated in earlier versions of Senate Bill 607, our organizations support refinements to the CEQA process to include limiting extraneous and non-germane communications in building the administrative record and aligning the standard of review for a lead agency's determination to adopt a Negative Declaration (ND) or a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) to parity with the existing standard of review for Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs). Our organizations support the focus on substantial evidence instead of the Fair Argument Standard which will further the construction of beneficial projects.

California's environmental leadership has long served as a model to the nation and around the world and CEQA is foundational to that leadership. As we face even more daunting climate impacts, it is imperative that California continue to lead and keep in place the necessary aspects of CEQA that protect our communities. However, too often the CEQA process is used to stymie renewable energy projects – which are a key component to combat global climate change. We cannot allow our environmentalism to be used as a weapon to achieve block the very planet-saving energy changes we seek.

For these reasons, we support and applaud your efforts as captured in Senate Bill 607 and stand ready to assist you in passing necessary reforms to the CEQA process.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Doyle, California Director
Solar Energy Industries Association

Shannon Eddy, Executive Director
Large-scale Solar Association

Jan Smutny-Jones, Chief Executive Officer
Independent Energy Producers Association

Nancy Rader, Executive Director
California Wind Energy Association