



April 13, 2018

Assembly Member Chris Holden
Chair, Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0041

Dear Chairman Holden:

We are writing on behalf of the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE) to convey the organization's support for AB 813. ACORE is a pan-renewable organization representing the nation's leading renewable energy developers, manufacturers, financial institutions, corporate end-users, utilities, providers of smart grid technology and the many other diverse industries that make up the thriving renewable energy economy. We are dedicated to advancing the renewable energy sector through market development, policy changes and financial innovation.

AB 813 would establish a multistate regional transmission system that unlocks the potential of California's Independent System Operator (CAISO), allowing it to evolve into a platform for a modern, decarbonized and high-performing regional grid. By linking the region's sophisticated grid operator with other utilities in the West, California will gain the flexibility to manage the high levels of renewable energy penetration necessary to reach the state's climate goals, while helping other states in the region also make the transition to low-carbon generation resources.

A grid that draws on a large and diverse range of both centrally-dispatched and distributed generation resources such as wind, solar, geothermal and hydro power can better respond to shifts in electricity demand. The additional flexibility created by an expanded grid will increase reliability, promote a decarbonized and affordable energy mix for consumers and businesses throughout the West, and drive continued infrastructure investment and economic development in California.

As you know, the renewable energy industry is one of the nation's fastest growing economic sectors. In fact, renewable generation has been the largest source of private sector infrastructure investment in the U.S. over the past six years. In 2017, more than \$40 billion was invested to support 18.4 GW of new U.S. renewable power generation. Renewable energy is a powerful economic driver in the West, and the solar industry alone employs over 86,000 Californians. On behalf of this important sector of the economy, we respectfully urge the passage of AB 813.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory S. Wetstone".

Gregory Wetstone
President & CEO
American Council on Renewable Energy

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Foley".

Todd Foley
Senior Vice President, Policy and Government Relations
American Council on Renewable Energy