



April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

The Honorable Josh Becker  
 Chair, Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications  
 1021 O Street, Suite 3350  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Becker,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing in strong support of SB 330 (Padilla), a bill that authorizes the use of public financing for clean energy transmission infrastructure projects that meet certain criteria. This bill offers a viable pathway toward addressing electricity affordability with the potential to save California ratepayers billions of dollars over the coming decade, while ensuring eligible projects are also advancing our state's vital clean energy goals.

The amount of transmission needed to support our state's continued growth and SB 100 2045 clean energy goals is estimated to cost between [\\$45.8 - \\$63.2 billion](#) over the next 20 years- up from \$30 billion in a previous CAISO Outlook estimate. The state has an opportunity to significantly reduce those approximated costs with the implementation of a public financing method. Traditional transmission financing by investor-owned utilities has contributed to rising electricity rates and customer bills. When combined with other significant cost pressures absorbed by ratepayers, such as wildfire preparedness and recovery, rates become unsustainable for many Californians. This is particularly felt by California's most vulnerable populations, such as low-income households.

In light of the state's energy affordability crisis, research conducted by [Net-Zero California and Clean Air Task Force](#) found that alternative methods of financing for transmission infrastructure, such as low-cost public financing models, can lead to savings of up to \$3 billion a year, or \$123 billion over 40 years. SB 330 would allow

the state to utilize this cost-effective financing method to build the transmission capacity we will need to transition to California's clean energy grid of the future.

Specifically, SB 330 authorizes the Governor to create pilot projects to develop, finance, and operate electrical transmission infrastructure in the state. Projects must meet carefully developed criteria that guarantee those selected will be in advancement of both the state's environmental goals, and reduction in costs to ratepayers. Pilot projects will have been previously identified by CAISO's transmission planning process to facilitate clean energy generation, further enabling the retirement of fossil fuel resources. These methodically selected pilots would then be implemented by state and local agencies, tribal organizations, or joint power authorities, as designated by the Governor.

The state has a responsibility to address the exponentially rising electricity costs for California residents, and evidence-based proposals to reduce spending should be front of line for adoption. That is why the undersigned strongly support SB 330, and thank Senator Padilla for his vital leadership on this pressing issue of affordability.

Sincerely,

**Edson Perez, Senior Principal**  
Advanced Energy United

**Alexis Sutterman, Senior Policy Manager**  
Brightline Defense

**Melissa Romero, Policy Advocacy Director**  
California Environmental Voters

**Maia Leroy, Policy Director**  
Clean Power Campaign

**Ellie Cohen, CEO**  
The Climate Center

**Cherry Robinson, Chapter Chair**  
Climate Reality Project San Diego

**Michael Mulligan, Legislative Analyst**  
NorCal Elders Climate Action

**Victoria Rome, Director, CA Government Affairs**  
NRDC

**Richard Burke, Leader, Southern CA Chapter**  
SoCal Elders Climate Action

**Stephanie Doyle, CA Director**  
Solar Energy Industries Association

**Marilyn Price, Co-Chair**  
Sustainable Mill Valley

**Michele Canales, Policy Advocate**  
Union of Concerned Scientists

**Daniel Chandler, Chair, Legislative Committee**  
350 Humbolt