



June 22, 2016

The Honorable Rudy Salas  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblymember Salas:

On behalf of our business membership, we write to you to express our concerns with AB 2630, as amended on June 20.

AEE is a national association of businesses dedicated to transforming public policy to enable a prosperous world that runs on clean, secure, affordable energy. We are comprised of over 100 companies both large and small across the technology spectrum, including energy efficiency, solar, wind, storage, biofuels, electric vehicles, demand response, advanced metering, and enabling software. Our members also include companies that have made a commitment to power their operations with renewable energy and are working with us to break down the barriers that inhibit them from reaching their sustainability goals.

We agree with and support what we believe to be the goal of this bill—to increase advanced energy opportunity and development in the San Joaquin Valley. This is a goal that AEE shares and we agree that the opportunity for economic growth in the San Joaquin Valley area fueled by the advanced energy sector will benefit local residents and all Californians.

Our primary concern with AB 2630 is that it will have the unintended consequence of inhibiting rather than promoting the growth of advanced energy projects in the San Joaquin Valley. There are already multiple regulatory and review processes that govern project siting and development, energy procurement, and transmission in the State. This construct includes CEQA review to determine impacts and mitigation; County approvals; regulatory review and approvals at the CPUC and/or CEC; and regulation of transmission siting and planning by the CAISO and other agencies. These multiple, complimentary and interlocking processes already mandate a full consideration of environmental impacts and related considerations for both project and transmission siting and development. The standards associated with these processes, while often challenging to meet, are well understood. AB 2630 would add an untested and unnecessary layer of review to existing processes and would also appear to legislatively pre-determine siting and development outcomes solely on the basis of the report cited in the bill. That report does not represent a consensus view of all stakeholders, and we believe the report requires more evaluation and discussion prior to it forming the basis of legislation.

AEE would be happy to discuss this with you so that we can develop an approach that achieves the goals you have set forth for the San Joaquin Valley region.

Sincerely,

Amisha Rai  
Senior Director, California Policy