



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD of ELECTRICAL WORKERS

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NINTH DISTRICT

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International Secretary-Treasurer

October 20, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Urgent need to address agency planning for offshore wind and subsea transmission

Dear Governor Newsom:

Thank you for your continued leadership on clean energy and addressing climate change. I am reaching out to you on behalf of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) to stress the importance to California's economic recovery and to continuing to accelerate clean energy development in the state of getting state agencies to move quickly to include offshore wind in energy portfolio planning and to ensure new transmission is being studied and approved to deliver new clean energy resources.

The state's recent experience with outages this year due to sustained higher temperatures and increased and more devastating wildfires, revealed some of the planning lapses the state is experiencing in getting new balancing resources in place that ensure grid reliability. All agencies have identified offshore wind as a key resource to meet crucial peak needs when other resources are not producing energy and when demand increases. This is critical as we increase our penetration of electric vehicles and transit that will drive up peak electric demand. Offshore wind development will bring thousands of replacements and new, sustained high-skilled jobs to the state that are needed as facilities like Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant and some gas plants also close over the balance of this decade. The state will also need new transmission to deliver offshore wind and other resources as they are built, and subsea transmission along the central and north coasts have been identified by agencies as necessary to help deliver in-state and offshore resources, especially into congested areas like the LA Basin.

IBEW will build the power plants, energy storage facilities, transmission lines and other resources that will ensure the state has reliable, affordable electricity, and the recent outages have demonstrated that the state has needs to immediately address planning to ensure these jobs do not disappear from California and that these projects get built here and contribute to electric system reliability, to resilience against wildfire threats and contribute significant investment and tax revenues to the state. In order to develop these resources, the state must act now on transmission and resource planning. IBEW urges you to compel the California Public Utilities Commission to move forward now with direction on transmission planning, so the process for approval can begin in early 2021, and so key resources like offshore wind can be included in current renewable portfolio planning at the PUC to meet the state's 2030 climate and energy goal. California needs new transmission to deliver new resources as Diablo Canyon and other resources retire and to ensure delivery of offshore before 2030 as well. IBEW built and maintained the state's existing energy infrastructure and we intend to build its future as well. That future begins today, and we believe agencies can no longer delay action to plan and build transmission and move the market forward for offshore wind within its energy portfolio to meet 2030 goals. We ask for your leadership to move these agencies forward in acting now for our reliable energy future.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John J. O'Rourke".

John J. O'Rourke
International Vice President