

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0035
(916) 319-2035
FAX (916) 319-2135
DISTRICT OFFICE
1304 BROAD STREET
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401
(805) 549-3381
FAX (805) 549-3400



COMMITTEES
CO-CHAIR: ETHICS
VICE CHAIR: JOBS, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, AND THE ECONOMY
VICE CHAIR: RULES
AGRICULTURE
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS
PRIVACY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
TRANSPORTATION
UTILITIES AND ENERGY
SELECT COMMITTEES
AEROSPACE
CALIFORNIA'S CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY
CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND
BUILDING A 21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE
IMPACT INVESTING FOR IMPROVED SOCIAL
AND ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES
REINTEGRATION AND REHABILITATION FOR
JUSTICE INVOLVED CALIFORNIANS
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
STREAMLINING SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF
INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

September 6, 2022

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal, Chair
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Written Testimony--Support for Procurement of Offshore Wind Energy, Morro Bay

I represent California's 35th State Assembly District, comprised of all of San Luis Obispo County and the northern part of Santa Barbara County on California's Central Coast. It is on behalf of my more than 470,000 constituents, and all of California, that I write in support of the procurement of offshore wind power off the coast of Morro bay.

I have long since supported the procurement of offshore wind energy off our coast, and I'm proud to have authored the bill that jumpstarted our planning and strategic planning goals for offshore wind. Simply put, we cannot meet our ambitious energy goals without offshore wind.

In my six years in office, I have watched California enact some of the most ambitious clean energy targets in the nation, and even recently accelerated the timelines on many. However, with the resources we have online today we cannot meet the energy needs of California. This past week, there has been a heat wave hitting the state, putting enormous stress on the grid. This has resulted in rolling blackouts and exorbitantly expensive importing of energy from other states to support us. As more energy sources go offline, California needs to diversify its energy sources to reliably meet the needs of residents.

Over the weekend, the governor signed a bill I authored to keep Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant (DCNPP) open until 2030. Countless studies have confirmed that we cannot meet our goals in the short term without nuclear, DCNPP generates 18,000 gigawatt-hours annually, about 10% of the state's

energy. Nuclear generates power rain or shine, 365 days a year, however even with Diablo still operational, the state runs into energy shortages and strain. While the prolonged life of Diablo Canyon is critical for the grid's reliability we must continue to bring more flexible resources online to meet our energy needs.

The California Independent Systems Operator (CAISO), the entity tasked with keeping the lights on, has echoed this need for a diverse resource mix to meet changing needs. CAISO's forecasted load and expected available resources create a "duck curve", with a lull in the morning to afternoon, when solar generation becomes readily available, and a steep ramp up to an arch in the evening, when power consumption is high and other renewables have gone offline. In order to balance out the curve, it is critical that we invest in resources that are flexible and able to start and stop multiple times a day.

Offshore wind is an excellent candidate to help fill the need for flexible energy, specifically around the duck curve arch. When solar and terrestrial wind is going off line, offshore wind will be able to fill that gap. Wind patterns 30 miles off the coast are different than land patterns, these massive turbines will be able to continue generating power well into the nighttime hours. No one energy source is going to be able to power California's grid reliably, we need to invest in diversifying our portfolio and giving CAISO the resources needed to keep the lights on.

The California Energy Commission (CEC), in collaboration with Governor Gavin Newsom, recently raised the state 2045 planning goals for floating wind from 20GW to 25GW, while increasing its 2030 target from 3GW to 5GW. California is charging ahead with offshore wind generation and I am hopeful for the future of our grid and our state with the investment off our coast here in Morro Bay.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important topic. Should you have any questions, please reach out to my office at 916-319-2035.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JC', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jordan Cunningham
Assemblyman, 35th District