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Business supports SB 100's call for 100% clean electricity in California

State and national business groups endorse bill setting goal

of 100% renewable energy by 2045

Sacramento, Calif.—Nearly two dozen national and California business groups sent a letter to state policymakers on Monday endorsing legislation that would move California to 100% renewable energy by the year 2045. The bill – SB 100 – would accelerate California's current 50% Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) from 2030 to 2026, while also raising the RPS to 60% by 2030.

Signers from across the state include the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, Ceres, Los Angeles Business Council, Cleantech San Diego, the Sierra Business Council, the California Business Alliance for a Clean Economy, and the California Wind Energy Association, as well as national groups such as the American Sustainable Business Council. They see the bill as an important step in maintaining and accelerating California's leadership in the clean energy economy.

"While we support the climate and environmental goals of SB 100, as business leaders and organizations we enthusiastically embrace the economic engine that this bill embodies for California," the letter reads. "The quality of these [advanced energy] jobs has been and will remain high, supporting skilled workers with family-sustaining compensation and benefits. We cannot afford to miss the opportunity to advance this important measure."

The legislature is expected to vote on the bill before its 2017 session ends this coming Friday, September 15.

"California's clean energy policies are the state's most effective tools for maintaining market certainty for advanced clean technologies," said Tim McRae, vice president of energy for the Silicon Valley Leadership Group. "We support SB 100 because it will drive investments that create jobs and grow the clean economy. We hope the legislature will vote yes on this measure and continue California's clean energy leadership."

"Accelerating renewable energy in California means businesses will have access to the affordable, clean power they prefer, while the state reaps clean energy job and investment benefits," added Kirsten James, director of California policy and partnerships at Ceres.

"California's climate and energy policies are proven catalysts for economic growth," said Mary Leslie, president of the Los Angeles Business Council. "AB 32 ended up being a game changer for the environment and the economy, proving that renewable policies are good business. By accelerating the RPS goals, we believe SB 100 has great promise to be an economic driver."

"SB 100 represents an important opportunity to build on this success," Steve Frisch, president of the Sierra Business Council said. "For the sake of the economy and the environment, we encourage lawmakers to pass this bill."

The business groups addressed their letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee, as well as Senate President pro tem Kevin de León - the author of the SB 100 legislation -and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon.