September 11, 2017

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 100 (de León) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez Fletcher and Committee Members,

On behalf of the organizations listed below, we write in support of SB 100, which accelerates California’s current 50% Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirement from 2030 to 2026 and raises the RPS to 60% by 2030. In addition, the bill calls for the state to fulfill all of its energy needs with zero carbon resources by 2045, without allowing resource shuffling.

Many of our business partners have supported the series of climate and clean energy policies that have led California to its position of leading the nation and the world in driving the clean energy economy. California has the largest advanced energy industry in the United States, employing 1 in every 6 advanced energy workers nationwide. Employment in that sector grew at 18% in 2015, six times the rate of employment growth throughout the state. In 2017, California employers project that advanced energy employment will increase by another 8%. California continues to lead the country in attracting clean tech investment – reaching $9.8 billion in 2015 — in part because our policies drive demand for things like renewable energy, shifting the emphasis of corporate investors.
California is the top state for solar jobs, employing 152,947 workers. In California, more than 500,000 employees spend some or all of their time engaged in advanced energy work, such as advanced electricity generation, energy efficiency, advanced grid technology, energy storage and advanced vehicles. SB 350’s increase to 50% renewables was estimated to create an additional 354,000-429,000 direct job years and a total of 879,000-1,067,000 total job years from the construction of new renewable generation. Clearly, SB 100 will only expand these numbers. Much of this new employment is in some of the California’s communities that have been hardest-hit economically. In the San Joaquin Valley alone, home to many of California’s more rural communities where unemployment has remained stubbornly high, recent studies show that construction on RPS-related projects created 88,000 total jobs and resulted in total economic impact of $11.6 billion.

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 quality of these 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. We thank you for your support and look forward to working with you to advance California’s clean energy policies.

Sincerely,

Gautam Barua
Aclaria Partners Inc.

Ed Duggan
Alton Energy

Richard Eidlin
American Sustainable Business Council

Todd Pitcher
Aspire Cleantech Communications

Meredith and Dan Beam
Beam Inc.

Wendy James
CA Alliance for a Clean Economy

Nancy Rader
CA Wind Energy Association

Ann Hancock
Center for Climate Protection & Business for Clean Energy

Kirsten James
Ceres

Anne Smart
Chargepoint

Jason Anderson
Cleantech San Diego

Hank Ryan
Efficiency Data & Development

Holly Kaufman
Environment & Enterprise Strategies

Mary Solecki
Environmental Entrepreneurs

Shannon Eddy
Large-scale Solar Association

Matt Petersen
LA Cleantech Incubator
Mary Leslie
LA Business Council

David Mogavero
Mogavero Architects

Carl Nettleton
Nettleton Strategies

Matt Golden
Open Energy Efficiency

Steve Frisch
Sierra Business Council

Mike Mielke
Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Jennifer Thompson
Sustainable Silicon Valley

cc: Committee Members
Senate President pro tem Kevin de León
Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon