



April 17, 2017

RE: AB 270 – Letter of Support

Dear Madame Chair Bustamante Adams and Assembly members of the Committee of Commerce and Labor:

I write to you on behalf of the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) in strong support of AB 270, legislation that will improve economics for rooftop solar. SEIA is the national trade association of the United States solar industry. Through advocacy and education SEIA and its 1,000 member companies work to make solar energy a mainstream and significant energy source by expanding markets, removing market barriers, strengthening the industry, and educating the public on the benefits of solar energy.

Renewable energy brings tremendous value to Nevada, including energy independence, improved energy security, reduced fuel transportation costs, comprehensive environmental benefits, and local jobs with living wages. These jobs include system design, engineering, permitting, project development, construction, supply and distribution, marketing, energy analysis, and maintenance.

Prior to 2016, Nevada had been a national leader in distributed generation, more specifically rooftop solar. However, in late 2015 with the dissolution of net metering, we have seen a tremendous implosion of what was a vibrant, growing industry. The PUCN itself stated that “the (NEM) Final Modified Order all but crushed the rooftop solar industry in Northern Nevada, reducing the booming industry from 983 applications by residential homeowners and small commercial businesses in Sierra Pacific Power Service territory in 2015 to 41 applications in 2016”.¹ This is consistent to what has been witnessed in Nevada where multiple national solar companies essentially stopped doing business in Nevada, or put plans on hold to expand to Nevada, and where we are seeing long-term local Nevada solar companies close shop or change business plans to install other technologies other than solar.

This matters a great deal, because solar has the potential for tremendous job creation. Nearly 209,000 Americans work in solar - more than double the number in 2010. By 2021, that number is expected to increase to more than 360,000 workers. We want Nevada to benefit from those jobs.

Thus, SEIA strongly supports the goals associated with AB 270, and intends to work with the sponsors, committee members and stakeholders as the bill progresses through the process to establish a sustainable energy future. We urge your support of this bill to promote a strong clean energy future for Nevada.

¹ Draft PUCN Order Dated 12/20/16 for Docket 16-06009

Thank you for your time and consideration and I look forward to working with you throughout this process. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 415-385-7240, or our lobbyist Jessica Ferrato, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sara Birmingham", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sara Birmingham
Senior Director, State Affairs
Solar Energy Industries Association