

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
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<b>Project Title:</b>	Soda Mountain Solar
<b>TN #:</b>	265783
<b>Document Title:</b>	Letter of Support – US Congressman Jay Obernolte
<b>Description:</b>	Document Description: This document provides a letter of support for the Soda Mountain Solar and Battery Storage Project from U.S Congressman Jay Obernolte (23rd District).
<b>Filer:</b>	Hannah Arkin
<b>Organization:</b>	Resolution Environmental
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Applicant Representative
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**JAY OBERNOLTE**  
TWENTY THIRD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
AND COMMERCE**  
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY  
COMMERCE AND MANUFACTURING,  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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August 26, 2025

Mr. Joseph Stout  
State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W1623  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
RE: Support for The Soda Mountain Solar and Battery Storage Project

Dear Director Stout:

As you may know, VC Renewables has recently modified their clean energy project, the Soda Mountain Solar and Battery Storage Project, located approximately six miles southwest of the town of Baker on 2,670 acres of federally managed land overseen by the Bureau of Land Management. I am proud to support this project as it will strengthen our energy infrastructure and improve the job market of a rural and underserved community.

The proposed project features a 300 MW solar facility coupled with 1,200 MWh of battery storage—sufficient to provide power to more than 140,000 homes, representing nearly one-fifth of all households in San Bernardino County. This large-scale initiative will play a crucial role in stabilizing California's power grid, mitigating significant energy price fluctuations, and reducing the risk of rolling blackouts.

Critically, the original plan was approved as a solar-only facility. The updated proposal improves the initial design by adding battery storage and decreasing the project's overall footprint. The new configuration situates the project adjacent to Interstate 15 and the planned Southern California-to-Las Vegas rail line. By integrating battery storage and refining the layout, the revised project offers a more compact footprint that enhances grid reliability for consumers.

In addition to expanding renewable energy generation and supporting grid stability, this project will bring substantial economic benefits to the region, including critical infrastructure investment, the creation of hundreds of construction jobs, increased annual tax revenue, and positive secondary economic effects for the High Desert.

Consistent with all rules and regulations, I ask that you give the Soda Mountain Solar and Battery Storage Project your complete consideration. If you have any questions, please contact my office at (202) 225-5861.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Obernolte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jay" being more prominent and stylized than the last name "Obernolte".

Jay Obernolte

Member of Congress