

Statement of Bill Deaver, Chairman, East Kern Economic Alliance
in support of the Ridgecrest Solar Millennium project

Good evening. I am Bill Deaver, chairman of the East Kern Economic Alliance, an organization of the communities and cities, businesses, county government, and civic organizations working with the Kern Economic Development Corporation to attract and retain businesses, industries, and jobs in East Kern.

Alternative energy is a growing business in this region, which has some of the finest wind and solar resources on this planet. KEDC predicts that East Kern's alternative energy industry could exceed the economic impact of West Kern's petroleum industry by 2030. That's a major feat considering our county's oil resources.

Powering our homes and businesses with clean wind and solar power not only helps clean the environment, it frees us from depending on energy resources from places that want to replace our freedoms with stone age tyranny.

In addition, generating electricity from solar and wind energy has a minimum impact on the land while creating new jobs and opportunity for current and, most importantly, future generations.

On a personal note, my family has lived in East Kern for more than 60 years and have watched the wind solar industries develop, and I have covered this growth as a journalist. In the Mojave and Tehachapi area, alternative energy along with aerospace has helped sustain the local economy during the current slowdown.

The East Kern Economic Alliance fully supports development of the Solar Millennium Project here in Ridgecrest, and asks that you join us in our efforts to attract and retain business and expand educational opportunities in what we call, "The New California!"

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Bill Deaver, Chairman, East Kern Economic Alliance

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