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## **Support for Energy Storage Project**

I would like to express my support for the construction of the Compass Energy Storage Project. California needs to build robust energy storage solutions to work in harmony with our renewable energy sources and provide clean, reliable, and renewable electricity. I believe this project will help towards that goal.

Residents have expressed concern over the potential risks of a battery storage system, which are valid and include fire risk, pollution, and the physical site of the project. However, I believe the risks are often exaggerated and are worth the rewards.

As a former battery safety engineer I have worked first hand with lithium ion battery fires. While lithium ion fires are very difficult to put out, the technology to keep battery systems safe and prevent fires from happening in the first place is better than ever and continues to improve. Moreover, the project states it will be using lithium iron phosphate cell chemistry, which is much safer than alternatives like nickel-manganese-cobalt or nickel-metal hydride.

In fact, I think having a system such as this nearby the city could improve fire safety as lengthy transmission lines will not need to be run through wildfire prone areas, instead, storage capacity is co-located with where residents live. Batteries do not have emissions (air, water, noise, or light) and therefore will not disturb the residents that live near the project. Long transmission lines would not only be unsightly but also could pose extreme wildfire risk during strong winds.

The project may even help reduce pollution as increased energy storage capacity will help reduce the need for polluting thermal energy (oil, gas, biofuel) during the summer months. I strongly disagree with arguments that the site will increase pollution.

In summary, I think this project has the opportunity to be a safe and low-impact way to improve the California grid and the lives of California and Orange County citizens.