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Alliance for a Clean Economy (ACE) Letter; Restoring CA's Clean Energy Job Losses for a Stronger, Cleaner, and Healthier Future

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



Alliance for a Clean Economy

June 4, 2020

Via Email

Governor Gavin Newsom
 & Members of the Governor's Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery
 State Capitol, First Floor
 Sacramento, CA 95814

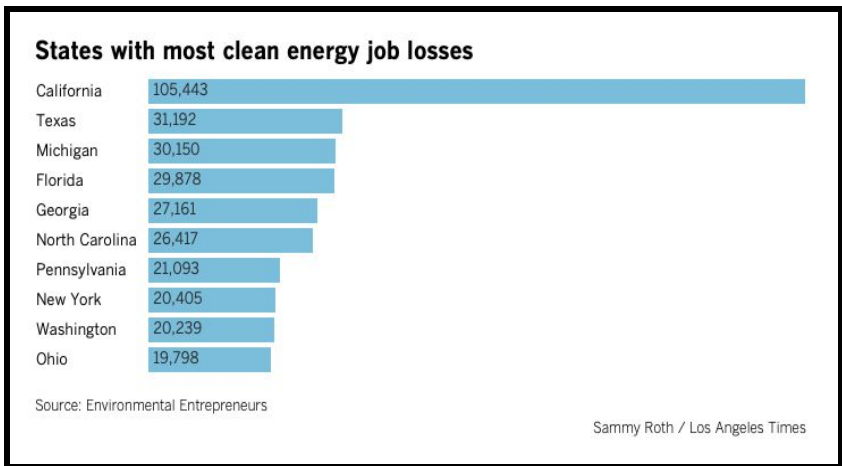
The Honorable Toni G. Atkins, Senate President Pro Tempore
 California State Senate
 State Capitol, Room 205
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker
 California State Assembly
 State Capitol, Room 219
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Restoring California’s Clean Energy Job Losses For a Stronger, Cleaner and Healthier Future

Dear Governor Newsom, President pro Tempore Atkins, Speaker Rendon, and Members of the Governor’s Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery:

The COVID-19 crisis has cost California more than 100,000 clean energy jobs – that’s approximately 20% of the state’s total clean energy workforce, and more than three times as many as any other state in the nation. Unless California takes immediate action, it may lose tens of thousands of additional jobs and over a billion dollars in investment in clean transportation, efficiency, demand management, renewables, smart grid, storage and other clean energy technologies— and suffer deep and enduring setbacks to our climate and clean energy policies. **With clear vision and bold leadership, we can reverse these trends.**



We write this letter at a time when the nation is coming to terms with serious racial injustice, following the brutal killing of George Floyd and many other Black men and women. We stand in solidarity with Black communities and all communities that have been deeply harmed by our society's injustices and inequalities. We are committed to a clean energy future and economy that is inclusive of all, for the benefit of all, and that contributes to a more just and equitable society; it cannot come to pass without acknowledging and overcoming invidious discrimination.

California can start now, by creating an inter-agency working group focused on leveraging clean energy to promote economic recovery. The inter-agency working group should consider the following actions:

- Accelerating the procurement and deployment of renewable and other clean energy resources, including early achievement of 2030 climate objectives;
- Collaborating with local communities to ensure clean energy resources are deployed equitably throughout California;
- Ensuring existing clean energy programs are fully funded and implemented;
- Identifying and expediting construction-ready clean energy projects, including the transmission and distribution infrastructure needed to deliver their energy to our communities; and
- Maximizing federal tax and economic stimulus benefits to California, its disadvantaged communities, its overall economy, and its climate and clean energy objectives.

Our state is proof that you can reach some of the strongest climate goals in the world while also achieving record economic growth. ... How we meet this moment will define our state – and country – for decades to come, just as the emergence of the internet defined our economy over the past few decades.”
Governor Gavin Newsom, Sept. 20, 2019

As representatives of California’s existing and emerging clean energy interests,¹ backed by global leaders in the field, we are here to help restore lost jobs and investment, leverage clean energy to provide immediate relief for California’s economy, and build a safer, more equitable, more resilient, and clean energy foundation for long-lasting economic growth.

Clean energy played a critical role in California’s recovery from the last recession, establishing the state as a global clean energy leader, and helping it become the world’s 5th largest economy. In 2008-2009, many federal and state economic stimulus tools were designed to enable investment in then-nascent clean energy. Today, the keys to unlocking well over a billion dollars in private investment will come from reaffirming confidence in California’s clean energy

¹ Including utility- and small- scale renewables & energy storage; energy efficiency; demand management; smart distribution & transmission system; and zero emission transportation and its associated charging and fueling.

commitments, and demonstrating to investors and the public that California can and will accelerate clean energy deployment as part of its economic recovery.

Restoring California's clean energy momentum would:

- Reestablish the 100,000 jobs lost to date, create tens of thousands of additional well-paying jobs, and attract well over one billion dollars in investment;
- Improve the health, welfare and quality of life for all Californians, and especially for disadvantaged communities, which have disproportionately borne the greatest health and economic burdens from this and other recent crises;
- Create safer and more resilient communities and mitigate further economic harm from wildfires and other risks;
- Reduce electricity costs and increase California's economic competitiveness for decades to come; and
- Reduce the economic, health and welfare impacts of future crises that may result from our changing climate.

California has faced multiple unprecedented and unexpected crises these last few years—testing our people, our economy, and our diverse strengths. We appreciate the leadership of Governor Newsom, the legislature, and the Task Force in taking on the many challenges resulting from COVID-19. The intersecting impacts of the pandemic and climate change call for a response that places economic inclusion, emissions reduction, and climate resilience at the center of economic recovery efforts. As organizations committed to helping California achieve a resilient, strong, and carbon-neutral economy, our goal is to highlight how the clean energy sector can help meet the State's multiple goals. Growth and investment in the clean energy sector would make a critical contribution to restoring our economy, while building a resilient, equitable future that protects public health and our climate, and that works for all Californians.

We urge State leaders and the Task Force to act quickly in creating an inter-agency working group that will immediately focus on clean energy contributions to California's economic recovery, including the near-term priorities outlined in this letter.

We look forward to collaborating with you to enable comprehensive solutions to the State's economic recovery and its commitments to climate action, environmental protection, and environmental justice. In the weeks to come, we will offer specific guiding principles and recommendations on how the clean energy sector can help California respond to the devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- *The Alliance for a Clean Economy*

The Alliance for a Clean Economy is comprised of:

Advanced Energy Economy (AEE)

American Wind Energy Association - California (AWEA - California)

California Efficiency + Demand Management Council (CEDMC)

Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies (CEERT)

California Energy Storage Alliance (CESA)

CYRQ Energy

Enel X

Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)

Geothermal Resources Council (GRC)

Golden State Clean Energy

Long Duration Energy Storage Association of California (LDESAC)

Large-scale Solar Association (LSA)

The Nature Conservancy

Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA)

Vote Solar