

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0034
(916) 319-2034
FAX (916) 319-2134

DISTRICT OFFICE
5959 S. MOONEY BLVD.
VISALIA, CA 93277
(559) 636-3440
FAX (559) 636-4484

email
assemblymember.maze@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly California Legislature



BILL MAZE
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
WATER, PARKS & WILDLIFE, VICE CHAIR
BUDGET
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1,
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS

August 20, 2007

Commissioner John L. Geesman, Commissioner and Presiding Member
Jackalynne Pfannenstiel, Chairman and Associate Member
Renewables Committee
California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 06-011-1
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

DOCKET 06-011-1
DATE AUG 20 2007
RECD. SEP 21 2007

Dear Commissioner Geesman and Chairman Pfannenstiel:

The purpose of this letter is to strongly encourage the Commission to set aside the scheduled date of September 26, 2007, for adopting the Renewables Committee's final draft of the "California Guidelines for Reducing Impacts to Birds and Bats from Wind Energy Development" to enable sufficient time to modify the prescriptive nature of Committee Draft. The Committee Draft requires fundamental and significant changes to avoid imposing substantial and unjustified burdens on wind energy development in California.

The Tehachapi-Mojave Wind Resource Area is very important and vital in my district. The economic benefits of wind to the surrounding communities of Tehachapi, Mojave, Rosamond, and Bakersfield are substantial. These proposed Guidelines prescribe particular courses of study and particular methods at every site across California, despite many different circumstances at each site, including terrain type, wildlife populations, knowledge bases, and experience of the lead agency in permitting wind projects. The Guidelines should instead enable different approaches appropriate to the circumstances that may exist. Though the Guidelines have been deemed "voluntary," they establish a rigid state sanctioned approach which lead agencies will be forced to follow.

When the Legislature passed the RPS law, the goal was to accelerate renewable energy development within the context of California's existing land use and environmental laws. The Committee Draft in many cases imposes study requirements that go far beyond what is necessary to determine and mitigate significant impact under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and therefore constitute research which is not reasonable to impose as part of the CEQA process. In so doing, the Committee Draft would significantly increase the time necessary to permit a wind project and would substantially increase permitting costs.

For these reasons, I would ask that the Commission carefully review all of the submitted comments and concerns and take whatever additional time is necessary to develop a document that is less prescriptive and is consistent with the requirements of CEQA.

Sincerely,


ASSEMBLYMEMBER BILL MAZE

Cc: California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 06-011-1
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Representing: Tulare, Kern, Inyo and San Bernardino Counties