

Hello Senator Simitian,

I am not a resident of California, but a Canadian citizen residing in British Columbia. Recent visits by your Governor have precipitated proposals for new production of hydro power for export to California.

I note on your Bill SB14 the definition of hydropower that qualifies as an "eligible renewable energy resource" is from a facility of 30mW or less. I am concerned that you may not be aware of the scope of the "run of the river" projects that are going ahead. Though many of the individual powerhouses are less than 30mW, they are usually part of a much larger cluster producing hundreds of mW. These clusters result in massive reconfigurations of the aquatic and terrestrial eco-systems in and about Pacific coastal fjords.

Have these been marketed to your Governor as eligible for premium purchase rates? There is a possibility there is a misunderstanding....the hydro is not really coming from a small footprint microhydro facility.

The term "run of the river" is not indicative of the scope of construction. It also involves the drawdown of alpine lakes to supplement natural flows.

Projects in British Columbia less than 50mW do not require a complete environmental assessment.

Thank you for your time considering my comments.

Ken Holowanky