



June 13, 2023

The Honorable Steven Bradford
Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3350
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 50 (Wood) – SUPPORT
As Amended, May 18, 2023**

Dear Senator Bradford:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the League of California Cities (CalCities) we support Assembly Bill 50 (Wood), regarding timely electrical interconnection.

Assembly Bill 50 makes several interrelated changes to expedite the timely delivery of service by electrical utilities regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). AB 50 seeks to establish clear expectations for how quickly utilities are expected to deliver service to new customers and fulfill requests for increased load from existing customers. Importantly, AB 50 also seeks to improve utility planning and information sharing to facilitate systematic reductions in the time it takes to meet requests for new or increased levels of service from customers. These changes are all necessitated by frequent and long-term challenges faced by a wide variety of jurisdictions throughout the state.

Many local governments have been told it will take anywhere from 2-7 years to improve utility distribution systems to provide additional capacity to support normal growth and facilitate economic development. These excessive delays have resulted in lost opportunities for transformative economic development, inhibit local ability to increase desperately needed local housing stocks, frustrate efforts to install electric vehicle charging systems, and will stymie the state's efforts to decarbonize existing residential and commercial buildings. While these problems have gotten worse recently, they are much longer-term issues in many areas.

AB 50 seeks to address these problems from several different perspectives. First, AB 50 will invest the CPUC with authority to determine what constitutes the timely provision of electrical service and fulfillment of requests to provide additional capacity. Second, AB 50 takes a more holistic approach by requiring utilities to refine their distribution planning processes to work more collaboratively with local governments and ensure that the projected demand more closely matches the actual demand for service.

Experiences have shown that some utilities develop their multi-year distribution plans without any interaction with local governments or economic development officials. Local governments and economic development officials can provide valuable input on projected development trends in the area, where those projects are anticipated to occur, and anticipated planning horizons. Failure to undertake these basic consultations has resulted in utility distribution plans that miss actual demand by a wide margin, leading to multi-year delays in

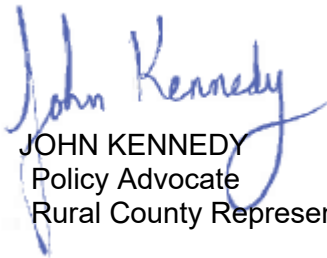
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service connection that result in economic stagnation. These simple, common-sense changes included in AB 50 will significantly improve utilities' ability to meet customer expectations over the mid- and long-term planning horizon.

Finally, AB 50 includes provisions requiring utilities to share information with local governments about where distribution capacity exists or could be easily added to help meet local housing and economic development objectives. Having this information would enable local governments to develop better, more refined housing and economic development plans that avoid directing development into areas where service is unlikely to be available in the foreseeable future.

For the above reasons, we respectfully request your "Aye" vote when this measure is heard before your committee. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact John Kennedy (RCRC) at jkennedy@rcrcnet.org, Ada Waelder (CSAC) at awaelder@counties.org, or Damon Conklin (CalCities) at dconklin@calcities.org.

Sincerely,



JOHN KENNEDY
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California



ADA WAELDER
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties



DAMON CONKLIN
Legislative Representative
League of California Cities

cc: The Honorable Jim Wood, Member, California State Assembly
Members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Communications
Nidia Bautista, Chief Consultant, Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities, and
Communications
Kerry Yoshida, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus