



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

May 10, 2023

The Honorable Marc Berman
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 6130
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 643 – SUPPORT
As Amended, May 1, 2023**

Dear Assembly Member Berman:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we support your Assembly Bill 643, regarding timely electrical interconnection. RCRC is an association of forty rural California counties and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those member counties.

Assembly Bill 643 seeks to expedite the timely interconnection of distributed renewable generation resources by electrical utilities regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). It also requires the CPUC to establish clear expectations for how quickly utilities are expected to interconnect these resources. These changes are all necessitated by frequent and long-term challenges faced by a wide variety of jurisdictions throughout the state.

Many of our 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 643 will require the CPUC to consider adopting enforceable timelines for the Rule 21 interconnection process through which customers seek to connect customer-sided renewable generation projects into the grid. The CPUC is also charged with finding ways to reduce administrative burdens and provide increased transparency and certainty to customers trying to navigate the process. We hope that this AB 643 process will improve utilities' ability to meet customer expectations in connecting their new projects to

1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814 | www.rcrcnet.org | 916.447.4806 | Fax: 916.448.3154

ALPINE · AMADOR · BUTTE · CALAVERAS · COLUSA · DEL NORTE · EL DORADO · GLENN · HUMBOLDT · IMPERIAL · INYO · KINGS · LAKE · LASSEN
MADERA · MARIPOSA · MENDOCINO · MERCED · MODOC · MONO · MONTEREY · NAPA · NEVADA · PLACER · PLUMAS · SAN BENITO · SAN LUIS OBISPO
SANTA BARBARA · SHASTA · SIERRA · SISKIYOU · SOLANO · SONOMA · SUTTER · TEHAMA · TRINITY · TULARE · TUOLUMNE · YOLO · YUBA

The Honorable Marc Berman
Assembly Bill 643
May 10, 2023
Page 2

the grid, as we fear that many vital economic development opportunities disappear after learning how long it will take to get their project connected to California's electrical grid.

For the above reasons, RCRC supports your AB 643. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at jkennedy@rcrcnet.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "J" and "K".

JOHN KENNEDY
Policy Advocate

cc: The Honorable Chris Holden, Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
Jay Dickenson, Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Laura Shybut, Chief Consultant, Assembly Energy and Utilities Committee
Greg Melkonian, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus