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Coalition Hails Governor Newsom's Signing of AB 825

AB 825 Will Make California's Electricity More Affordable and Reliable

Sacramento, CA — The unprecedented coalition of business, labor, ratepayers, environmental groups, clean power advocates, CCAs and public utilities backing California participation in an expanded regional power market hailed the Legislature's overwhelming, bipartisan passage of AB 825 (Petrie-Norris, Rivas and Becker).

"We want to thank Governor Newsom, Speaker Rivas, pro Tem McGuire, Assemblymember Petrie-Norris and Senators Becker and Stern for their tremendous leadership in crafting and passing this landmark legislation after prior efforts had failed" said representatives of the bill's sponsors: ***Katelyn Roedener Sutter – California State Director at EDF, Victoria Rome – Senior Director of California Government Affairs at NRDC, and Hunter Stern – California State Association of Electrical Workers and the Coalition of California Utility Employees.*** "This bill will help lower electricity bills, strengthen our electric grid and expand our access to affordable clean energy."

Independent research has shown that a broad West-wide electricity market like that facilitated by AB 825 will **reduce energy costs** by more than \$1 billion / year, improve grid reliability and **reduce power outages and blackouts**, and **increase access to affordable clean energy**. Recent polling by David Binder Research showed **80% of California voters support legislation like AB 825, with even stronger support for its affordability and reliability impacts.**

AB 825 enables implementation of the Pathways Initiative, a proposal developed over the last two years by stakeholder groups from around the Western US with the goal of creating a new entity with independent governance capable of offering an expansive suite of West-wide, voluntary wholesale electricity market functions across the largest possible footprint.

The bill's authors weighed in:

"This proposal is a smart, forward-looking plan to deliver Californians more affordable, reliable, and clean energy. By joining a broader regional energy market, we can cut energy costs by over a billion dollars each year and fortify our grid against climate-driven disruptions. AB 825 is the result of years of hard work and negotiations, and I am confident that the proposal passed today will protect California's energy independence while opening the door to new opportunities to build and share renewable power across the West."

- Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris (D-Irvine)



“As we move toward achieving California’s 100% clean energy goals, we must look at every opportunity to reduce costs, improve reliability, and cut emissions. AB 825 strikes that balance by unlocking the benefits of a regional energy market while safeguarding California’s public policy priorities and delivering BILLIONS in savings for Californians. This is a win-win for California families, our economy, and our climate future.”

- Senator Josh Becker (D–Menlo Park)

Individual members of the historic coalition behind the effort also hailed the achievement.

“Western Freedom is proud to be a part of an unprecedented coalition expressing their support for California’s participation in the new, independent Regional Organization (RO). We greatly appreciate the entire coalition, Governor Newsom, legislative leadership, and all the bill authors for helping champion this until the end. We look forward to the ongoing development of the RO and collaboration with our western partners as we work to meet the demand for affordable, reliable electricity throughout the West.”

- Kathleen Staks, Executive Director Western Freedom

“At this pivotal point for renewable energy, AB 825 demonstrates that California will continue to lead in innovation and ensure our energy economy maximizes benefits for all. We call upon the Public Utilities Commission to continue the momentum by initiating their review in 2026.”

- Rob Shaw, President CalCCA

“AB 825 is one of the most consequential energy sector initiatives California has seen in decades. By unlocking participation in a broader western regional market—while preserving the state’s authority over key climate, procurement, environmental, and reliability policies—this legislation delivers urgently needed cost savings for ratepayers. CalCCA thanks the diverse coalition of stakeholders who advanced this vision and Governor Newsom, Speaker Rivas, Assemblymember Petrie-Norris, Senators Becker and Stern, and pro Tem McGuire for their leadership in moving the bill through the Legislature.”

- Evelyn Kahl, Chief Policy Officer and General Counsel of California Community Choice Association

“This transition toward a regional energy market with neighboring states is a necessary and common-sense solution that will bring down electricity costs, encourage further development of renewables in California, and improve reliability. This legislation moves us in the right direction—helping to keep the lights on and bring down electricity costs for millions of Californians.”

- Randy S. Howard, General Manager, Northern California Power Agency; Member, Pathways Launch Committee

“AB 825 is a landmark bill for California and for clean energy in the West. It’s sound policy that will drive down prices and help deliver the megawatts California needs to power an energy-hungry future.”

- Alex Jackson, Executive Director of American Clean Power-California



“Amazon applauds Governor Gavin Newsom and the Legislature for their leadership in advancing AB 825, which paves the way for a more reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy future for California. This legislation will strengthen the Western power grid, drive down costs for consumers, and support the clean energy needed to power our operations and maintain U.S. leadership in emerging technologies like AI. We look forward to working with state leaders to help make this vision a reality.”

- Shannon Kellogg, Vice President, AWS Americas Public Policy, Amazon

“Southern California Edison thanks Governor Newsom and the legislature for this constructive policy that lowers electric bills, strengthens grid reliability and expands access to affordable, clean power for our customers.”

- Steve Powell, President & CEO, Southern California Edison

“California remains a climate and clean energy leader by enabling an expanded Western electricity market. Big challenges are solved only through engagement and partnership. As our nation digs in on failed policies fueling higher energy costs and the climate crisis, California is doubling down on a regional framework for clean energy action and increasing access to cheaper, cleaner electricity. These are real solutions for families on a budget, the climate, and our economy. AB 825 will cut California’s energy costs \$1 billion a year and its climate emissions by 59 percent through expanding access to cheaper clean electricity that now goes to waste. Finally, California will have the modern electricity market needed to build a clean power future the fastest, cheapest way possible while preventing blackouts.”

- Katelyn Roedner Sutter, California State Director at Environmental Defense Fund

“AB 825 will strengthen California manufacturing by ensuring more reliable, affordable, and cleaner power through a broader regional market. This stability allows manufacturers to invest with confidence and keep delivering for California’s economy.”

- Lance Hastings, President & CEO of the California Manufacturers & Technology Association

“AB 825 is about cutting pollution, lowering costs for families, and creating good-paying clean energy jobs. While Trump is doubling down on policies that make energy more expensive, unreliable, and toxic, California has a chance to show what real leadership looks like by building a resilient energy system that puts communities first. This is a step in the right direction, and it’s exactly the kind of action we need to protect our health, strengthen our economy, and secure a clean energy future.”

- Melissa Romero, Policy Advocacy Director, California Environmental Voters

“California’s publicly owned electric utilities strive to provide clean, reliable, and affordable energy to our customers. One of the best and proven ways to effectively lower the cost of electricity and increase reliability is to create a viable Western regional energy market. California has the opportunity this year to take a major step toward achieving this by passing AB 825 (Petrie-Norris). Public utilities strongly support efforts that will save our customers money and provide additional reliability for the grid. AB 825 will do both of those things.”

- Danielle Blacet-Hyden, Executive Director of the California Municipal Utilities Association



“This bill will help provide lower cost, reliable clean electricity to California ratepayers and neighboring states across the West.”

- Jan Smutny Jones, Independent Energy Producers

“SDG&E is committed to finding ways to make energy bills more affordable while building a sustainable future for the communities we serve. AB 825 represents progress toward a more efficient regional energy market – one that can help enhance grid reliability, accelerate California’s clean energy transition and help reduce customer bills for all Californians.”

- Scott Crider, President of SDG&E

"With AB 825 signed into law, California has taken a historic step toward building the modern, regional energy market we need. This bill safeguards state authority, ensures our communities benefit from lower costs and greater reliability, and accelerates the path to decarbonization for our state and the western region. Peninsula Clean Energy is proud to have been an early supporter of the legislation, and we celebrate this milestone alongside the Governor and Legislature.”

- Shawn Marshall, CEO of Peninsula Clean Energy

“The savings achieved by this regional plan will have a positive impact on family budgets, on small businesses navigating thin margins, and for the competitiveness of energy-intensive employers that anchor local economies.”

- Jonathan Kendrick, Policy Advocate at CalChamber

"This legislation is the culmination of nearly a decade of work to create a more flexible, reliable, and affordable energy future for California and the West. AB 825 paves the way for an independently governed energy market that will deliver a more reliable grid, broader deployment of clean energy resources, and more affordable energy for consumers. Advanced Energy United is grateful to Governor Newsom and the California Legislature for their leadership on this important issue."

- Leah Rubin Shen, Managing Director at Advanced Energy United

“The Clean Energy Buyers Association (CEBA) applauds California’s leadership in forging this landmark agreement to expand the Western grid. This collaborative effort is a critical step towards delivering more affordable, reliable, and clean energy across the West—directly benefiting Californians, including many CEBA members who are some of the State’s largest energy users with ambitious carbon reduction goals.”

- Nidhi Thakar, Senior Vice President – Policy, Clean Energy Buyers Association

“We appreciate California lawmakers taking meaningful action to lower electricity costs for customers and increase grid reliability. PG&E supports the state’s efforts to expand energy markets across the west to optimize generation, transmission and storage assets across the western grid. This legislation will help save customers money by reducing reliance on pricey fossil fuel generation and increasing access to lower-cost renewable energy from other states, advancing energy affordability and California’s clean



energy goals.”

- Carla Peterman, Executive Vice President of Corporate Affairs and Chief Sustainability Officer, PG&E

"AB 825 allows California to join the West in sharing abundant and low-cost clean energy resources. This landmark bill creates the opportunity to utilize the geographic and resource diversity of the western region to enhance electricity reliability, unlock deeper cost savings, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels."

- Kelsie Gomanie, advocate for NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council)

"AB 825 allows the CAISO and regulated entities to participate in a voluntary regional energy market governed by an independent Board. BANC and all of public power face the challenges of balancing reliability, affordability and carbon reduction goals on a daily basis. AB 825 provides the rare opportunity to enable a broader energy market that will simultaneously help to accomplish all three objectives. We appreciate the Governor's leadership in making this a reality."

- Jim Shetler, General Manager of Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC)

"Cheaper, cleaner, more reliable electricity is good for consumers and good for the climate as we gradually electrify our economy. We want to thank Senator Becker, Senator Stern, and Assemblymember Petrie-Norris for demonstrating that California can still do big things in the pursuit of our common goals."

- Will Brieger, Director, Climate Action California

"AB 825 proves that when stakeholders come together through a transparent process, Californians win with more reliable energy, lower costs, and a stronger grid."

- Cathy Cockrum Dean, President and Founder, Elevate California

"As some of the state's largest ratepayers, we are encouraged that AB 825 will improve the reliability of our grid. The grid operator will have a wider pool of energy resources: strengthening our ability to handle climate-driven disruptions and reducing the risk of blackouts. We applaud legislative leaders and regulators for spearheading this critical effort"

- Meredith Alexander, CA Coalition of Large Energy Users

"PacifiCorp commends the leadership of the California Legislature, Governor Newsom and a broad coalition of stakeholders in advancing AB 825. This milestone paves the way for meaningful benefits our customers will experience through our participation in the Extended Day-Ahead Market. EDAM will enhance reliability, optimize energy resources across the West and help lower costs for the customers we serve."

- Mike Wilding, Vice President of Energy Supply Management at PacifiCorp

"The passage of AB 825 is a major step toward building the modern energy infrastructure California needs to ensure its leadership role as the global center of innovation. This bill will help lower costs, improve reliability, and speed our progress on clean energy and climate goals. SVLG has been proud to



support this effort over the past few years, and we thank Governor Gavin Newsom and the Legislature for their efforts to get it across the finish line."

- Ahmad Thomas, CEO of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG)

"With AB 825, California lawmakers secured an important victory for energy affordability and economic resilience—one that strengthens both the state's grid and its economy. By joining a regional electricity market, California can build a more efficient, reliable power system—delivering power where and when it's needed most, easing grid stress during peak demand, and ensuring families and businesses have access to the lowest-cost electricity."

- Kelly Trombley, senior director, state policy, Ceres

"SB 540 modernizes California's grid operations to better align with today's energy reality. By coordinating across the West, we can optimize clean energy use, improve reliability, and significantly reduce emissions—all while saving hundreds of millions of dollars a year in energy costs."

- Ted Bardacke, CEO of the Clean Power Alliance

"Building the future of transportation requires a grid as innovative and dependable as the vehicles connecting to it. The passage of AB 825 is that forward-thinking investment in our energy infrastructure. By enabling greater collaboration across the West, it will directly lower costs and improve grid reliability, making EV ownership even more accessible and secure for millions of Californians."

- Coley Girouard, Sr. Lead on Energy Market Enablement from Rivian's Advanced Energy Solutions team

"With these landmark bills, California will continue to be a global leader in clean energy, in the face of severe federal cutbacks. These bills will secure billions in community investment, lower energy costs for ratepayers, strengthen grid reliability and protect the 553,000 clean energy jobs that power California's economy."

- Susan Nedell, E2 Senior Western Advocate

More information about the coalition and AB 825 can be found here:

<https://affordablecleanpowerca.org/coalition/>

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