



June 26, 2024

Honorable Steve Bennett
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4710
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 551 (Bennett) – Support

Dear Assemblymember Bennett:

The Public Advocates Office is the independent consumer advocate at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). We advocate for affordable, safe, and reliable utility services consistent with the state's climate and clean energy goals.

We support AB 551, as amended on June 10, 2024, because it would help streamline the approval process for much needed electrical transmission projects and continue to uphold the state's environmental review processes.

Specifically, this bill would facilitate the CPUC's ability to institute changes to its processes that would ensure expeditious evaluation of transmission infrastructure proposals. Furthermore, the bill would establish clear deadlines for submitting and addressing objections to certain transmission projects that are identified as exempt from specific review processes, which will ensure prompt resolution for all parties.

Overall, AB 551 would provide a path for improving the transmission permitting process while ensuring environmental protections are in place and would help advance the state's climate and energy goals.

Sincerely,



Linda Serizawa
Interim Director