



# IMPERIAL VALLEY **REGIONAL** CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

April 28, 2025

Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials  
1020 N Street, Room 171  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Support for Assembly Bill 1031 (Gonzalez) – Exemption for Geothermal Waste Under Hazardous Waste Control Laws**

Dear Chair Connolly and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Imperial Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce (IVRCC), I am writing to express our **strong support** for Assembly Bill 1031 (Gonzalez), which provides a much-needed update to California's hazardous waste laws as they apply to geothermal energy production.

As an organization that is focused on promoting community prosperity through advocacy and economic development, we recognize the vital role geothermal power plays in advancing Imperial County's leadership in renewable energy, workforce development and critical mineral development. Assembly Bill 1031 directly supports this clean energy future by correcting an unintended regulatory burden that threatens the viability of geothermal projects.

The **current fee structure under California's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)** imposes high costs on geothermal operators for byproducts like filter cake. These fees, jeopardize geothermal investment at a time when California urgently needs non-weather-dependent, base-load power production.

We applaud Assemblymember Gonzalez for introducing this critical legislation, and we respectfully urge your **AYE vote** on AB 1031.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [CEO@IVRegionalChamber.com](mailto:CEO@IVRegionalChamber.com).

Sincerely,

Sher Cowie

President/CEO