



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

April 15, 2025

Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris
Chair, Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy
1020 N Street, Room 408A
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1016 (Gonzalez) Power Facility and Site Certifications: Thermal Powerplants: Geothermal Resources – As Amended 3/25/25
NOTICE OF SUPPORT

Dear Chair Petrie-Norris:

On behalf of the Imperial Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce (IVRCC), I am writing to express our strong support for Assembly Bill 1016 (Gonzalez), which expands local permitting authority for thermal power plants from 50 MW up to 150 MW net output in counties that have adopted a geothermal element in their General Plan.

This proactive reform will help accelerate clean, baseload renewable energy development by empowering qualified counties to be the lead agency on permitting geothermal projects – eliminating duplicative state and local review while maintaining full CEQA compliance. AB 1016 enables counties with extensive geothermal experience – like Imperial County – to move projects forward efficiently and responsibly.

As directed by the California Public Utilities Commission, California needs 1,000 MW of new geothermal power to meet its climate goals. AB 1016 directly supports this by expanding permitting pathways, which is important for increasing development viability in the region. By reducing permitting delays, AB 1016 creates a pathway for additional clean energy in California. Specifically in the Imperial County, where unemployment is over 17%, this is critical for supporting workforce and economic development. In addition, geothermal development in Imperial County expands the potential for critical mineral recovery, including lithium.

This legislation supports the mission of the Imperial Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce by fostering economic opportunity, supporting sustainable energy development, and promoting policies that strengthen our local workforce and business environment.

We urge your support for this vital legislation that balances local empowerment, environmental integrity, and statewide clean energy progress.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Sher Cowie
President/CEO

cc: Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez
Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris

1095 S Fourth Street, El Centro CA 92243 / email: CEO@IVRegionalChamber.com / Ph: 760-352-7413