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## **Coalition Hails Legislative Passage of AB 825**

*AB 825 Would Make California's Electricity More Affordable and Reliable  
Landmark Affordability Bill Now Moves on to Governor Newsom for Signature*

**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



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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**

“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,” said “This legislation moves us in the right direction – helping to keep the lights on and bring down electricity costs for millions of Californians.”

**- Randy Howard, General Manager of Northern California Power Agency (served on the 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**

"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**



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“This is a huge win for families on a budget and for climate action. Clean power is cheaper power and AB 825 will save California more than a billion dollars each year by expanding access to clean electricity that currently goes to waste. By collaborating with our neighbors across the West, we will have the modern electricity grid needed to build a clean power future the fastest, cheapest way possible while preventing blackouts and creating a firm financial foundation for clean energy growth and jobs.”

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

“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**

“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 is a pivotal moment for the West, demonstrating California’s commitment to regional collaboration and ensuring all states’ voices will be represented,” said “The broad geographic footprint enabled by this legislation will provide the greatest economic benefits, improve affordability for consumers, and support



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a more resilient future for the whole region.”

**- 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)**

“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," said "This milestone paves the way for meaningful



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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)**

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

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

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