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Senator Ricardo Lara, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Californians for Green Nuclear Power's Position on SB 100

Chairman Lara,

Californians for Green Nuclear Power (CGNP) is a group of citizens who appreciate the advantages offered by nuclear power for our environment and to taxpayers. Board members include dedicated scientists educated at top universities - elite specialists in their fields, with decades of experience on these issues. We have come forward because we wish to help our home state of California, and society, make wise decisions for the benefit of future generations.

We support the efforts of the committee and Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin DeLeón to enact legislation clarifying California's environmental goals with respect to climate change. The proposed clarifications are significant and needed. The inclusion of hydropower, which on an annual basis is responsible for 7% of California electricity and emits no greenhouse gases (GHGs), will play a significant role in meeting our state's environmental goals and ensuring taxpayers and ratepayers are protected.

CGNP strongly objects, however, to any attempt to exclude nuclear generating facilities from qualification under our state's RPS mandate, for the following reasons:

1. **Nuclear energy is zero-emission energy.** The absence of any significant emissions from nuclear power plants, and their prominent role (greater than hydropower in California) make them critically important to ensuring the reductions necessary to meet our long-term emissions goals.
2. **Nuclear energy is safe.** Critics compare power plants built decades earlier to Diablo Canyon Power Plant and other modern U.S. facilities. These are not factual comparisons. Diablo Canyon is a model of modern technology and efficiency, widely regarded as one of the best-maintained nuclear facilities in the world. Moreover, the number of casualties worldwide attributable to nuclear energy is dwarfed by those directly attributable to coal and other sources. A comparable analogy is thus: many people believe air travel to be more dangerous than car travel. However, a person is (by a large margin) more likely to suffer a significant

accident in a car. Plane travel gets more attention. This is the same in the energy world. But we expect our policymakers, even in this “post-fact” world, to make decisions based on facts and data - not urban legends.

3. **California's moratorium on new nuclear plants must be revisited.** With climate change upon us, nuclear energy experts insist it is time for a re-evaluation of California's moratorium. Los Alamos National Laboratory:
"California's 1976 legislative moratorium on development of nuclear power plants should not serve as a barrier to holding an appropriate dialogue on deciding whether the reasons behind the moratorium are still valid or persuasive in light of the aforementioned advances in the nuclear field and California's current clean energy and water needs."
4. **The potential for extending California's RPS credits to nuclear must not be ignored.** Diablo Canyon is the largest point source of California electricity, contributing over 9% of total generation and 22% of California's carbon-free generation. Whether or not the moratorium on new plants is repealed, financial incentives should be extended to Pacific Gas & Electric so the important contribution of Diablo Canyon can be preserved.
5. **Recent Illinois legislation saved two nuclear plants from closing and prevented 10.7 million tons of carbon emissions.** Quad Cities and Clinton were two plants which faced closure when Illinois legislators stepped up to the plate in December, 2016, enacting the *Future Energy Jobs Bill*. The bill, which offered a Zero-Emissions Credit (ZEC) for clean nuclear energy, prevented the emissions equivalent of 2.1 million additional cars on the road.
6. **Diablo Canyon and new nuclear power in California provide benefits unavailable from other sources.** Nuclear energy is available 24/7, whether the sun is shining or the wind is blowing; its critical base-load contribution functions well with natural gas and renewables; it provides a solid, reliable foundation for California's grid; infrastructure already in place saves ratepayers on costs of new construction.

Therefore, the arbitrary exclusion of nuclear energy from SB 100 is unjustified. Both hydropower and nuclear energy meet the criteria of California's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), listed as sources which:

1. Increase the diversity, reliability, public health and environmental benefits of the energy mix
2. Promote stable electricity prices
3. Protect public health
4. Improve environmental quality
5. Stimulate sustainable economic development
6. Create new employment opportunities
7. Reduce reliance on imported fuels

Furthermore, Californians for Green Nuclear Power recommends inclusion of an amendment to SB 1078, adding subsection (5) to §399.129.(a).1 to reflect nuclear energy's conformance with the criteria outlined in §399.11:

"(5) Any facility licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the purpose of generating electricity by means of nuclear fission or fusion shall be eligible."

Ansel Adams once said, "Nuclear power . . . is the only practical alternative that we have to destroying the environment with oil and coal." The Sierra Club, for quite some time, ran a campaign called, "Atoms not Dams." Its official position was that nuclear power - so abundant, so clean, and kept safe - could help the world preserve ecosystems and clean our air without increasing costs to our governments. Trends come and go (and so does political positioning by interest groups), but the science remains unchanged. We ask that the Committee on Appropriations apply logic to this analysis, consider the benefits of nuclear power to the state's climate-change goals and economy, and amend SB 100 appropriately.

Sincerely,

Carl Wurtz
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Founder, *InCaliforniaWeTrust.org*