

State Building and Construction Trades Council of California

ROBERT L. BALGENORTH
PRESIDENT

JAMES W. KELLOGG
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Chartered by
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES
DEPARTMENT
AFL - CIO

January 31, 2011

The Honorable Steven Chu, Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
The Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

**RE: Sempra Energy (Baja Wind U.S. Transmission, LLC) Application
Docket Number PP-334 — OPPOSE**

Dear Secretary Chu:

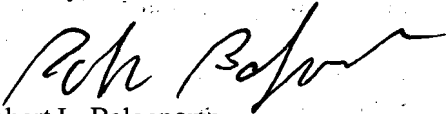
I write on behalf of the California Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO, to express our strong opposition to Sempra Energy's application on behalf of Baja Wind U.S. Transmission, LLC, (known as Energia Sierra Juarez U.S. Transmission, LLC) for a Federal permit to build a transmission line from Northern Baja California, Mexico, to San Diego County, California.

This transmission project directly undermines President Obama's efforts to create quality employment opportunities for U.S. workers and reduce the high unemployment rate. These cross-border transmission lines would enable Sempra to build energy plants in Mexico and import electricity into the United States. Approving this application would result in the exportation of jobs from the U.S. construction sector which is experiencing a 35 percent unemployment rate in California.

We strongly support U.S. policy to reduce its dependence on foreign sources of energy by heavily investing into rebuilding our nation's infrastructure. Developing our energy infrastructure within our borders will provide for a better economic future and strengthen our national security. In addition, allowing this project to move forward would severely undermine U.S. environmental and labor laws.

In closing, we respectfully urge you to reject Sempra Energy's application for a cross-border application permit in accordance with the President's policies on energy, environmental and labor. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Balgenorth
President

RLB:mb
opeiu#29/afl-cio

cc: U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer
U.S. Representative Bob Filner
U.S. Representative Henry Waxman
Mike Monroe, Building and Construction Trades Department
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