



UnionYes

Lorena Gonzalez  
Secretary-Treasurer/CEO

Mickey Kasparian  
President

# San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council

February, 7, 2011

**VIA U.S. MAIL**

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

**Subject:** *Presidential Permit for Energia Sierra Juarez U.S. Transmission, LLC  
(Docket Number PP-334) – OPPOSE*

Dear Secretary Chu:

On behalf of the approximately 192,000 members of San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council and their families, I write in opposition to Sempra Energy's application on behalf of Baja Wind U.S. Transmission, LLC (now known as Energia Sierra Juarez U.S. Transmission, LLC) for a Presidential Permit (Docket Number PP-334) to construct a cross-border transmission line between northern Baja Mexico and San Diego County.

The transmission project proposed in this application would undermine several goals of President Obama's Administration. Specifically:

1. **It would facilitate the export of American jobs:** Sempra's cross-border transmission lines would enable the company to build energy projects in Mexico and import the energy into Southern California instead of building them here where the power is being used. This moves our economy in the wrong direction at a time when we should be creating jobs here in the United States.

2. **It would increase the United States' dependence on imported energy:** The Administration has emphasized the need for America to become energy independent. Approving cross-border transmission lines to import energy from Mexico into California is the exact opposite of the President's stated goal. Our nation's economic future and security depends on developing energy infrastructure within our own borders.
  
3. **It would undermine American environmental and labor laws:** A core component of President Obama's campaign platform was his commitment to a green economy that could usher in a new period of environmental and economic prosperity. Construction of a cross-border transmission line will undermine the President's vision by enabling Sempra Energy to deliver energy to California from foreign facilities not built to our labor or environmental standards.
  
4. **It would hamper efforts to revitalize California's Imperial County:** With approximately 30 percent unemployment, Imperial County features the highest jobless rate in the entire United States. However, Imperial County's vast resources and prime location has the potential to churn out 2,400 Megawatts of renewable energy. That potential shows Imperial County can become a solution for the Southwest's energy needs and, in turn, be the key for turning around the county's economy. The Obama Administration cannot give up on Imperial County.

If we are to reclaim America's middle class, we need to eliminate opportunities for corporations to offshore our jobs, exploit workers and raid natural resources. For these reasons, we respectfully request that you reject Sempra's application for a cross-border Presidential Permit.

Sincerely,



Lorna Gonzalez  
Secretary-Treasurer and CEO

CC: Sen. Barbara Boxer, CA  
Sen. Dianne Feinstein, CA  
Sen. Jeff Bingaman, Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Rep. Bob Filner, CA -51  
Anthony Como, Director, Permitting and Siting, U.S. Department of Energy