



Painters & Allied Trades DISTRICT COUNCIL 36

GRANT MITCHELL
Business Manager

DRYWALL FINISHERS, FLOORLAYERS, GLAZIERS, PAINTERS, TRADESHOW & SIGNCRAFT

February 10, 2011

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

Dear Secretary Chu:

On behalf of the approximately 10,500 members of the Painters and Allied Trades District Council 36, 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.

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,

Matt Kriz
San Diego Political Director

CC: : Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chair Senator Jeff Bingaman
Congressman Bob Filner, 51st Congressional District
Anthony Como, Director, U.S. Department of Energy
Grant Mitchell
Bob Lessin
Harry Cook