



San Diego County Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO

February 15, 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 San Diego County Building & 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 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,

Tom Lemmon
Business Manager

cc: U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer
U.S. Representative Bob Filner
U.S. Representative Henry Waxman