

February 7, 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 5,000 members of Local 1931 of the American Federation of Teachers, 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:

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.

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.

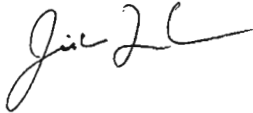
It would undermine American environmental and labor laws: A core component of President Obama's campaign platform was his commitment to a green economy that could usher in a new period of environmental and economic prosperity. Construction of a cross-border transmission line will undermine the President's vision by enabling Sempra Energy to deliver energy to California from foreign facilities not built to our labor or environmental standards.

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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Mahler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jim Mahler, President
AFT Guild, Local 1931

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, Permitting and Siting, U.S. Department of Energy