

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
Room 4117
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0043
(916) 319-2080
FAX (916) 319-2180

Assembly
California Legislature



V. MANUEL PÉREZ

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, EIGHTIETH DISTRICT

STANDING COMMITTEES:
CHAIR, Jobs, Economic
Development & the Economy
Aging & Long-Term Care
Health
Government Organization
Veterans Affairs

July 18, 2011

Dr. Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

I write you today to request the denial of a Presidential permit (Docket Number PP-334) to Energia Sierra Juarez U.S. Transmission, LLC (ESJ-U.S.). As proposed, this permit would authorize ESJ-U.S. to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line that crosses the U.S.-Mexico international border approximately ten miles from Imperial County, California.

To date, my offices have received numerous phone calls and letters from constituents in the district who share equal concerns about the potential negative impact this cross-border transmission project will have on our local workforce and local economy. By building energy projects in Mexico and connecting into the Southwest Powerlink transmission line, ESJ-U.S. will displace possible development in California's Southwest desert region. As you may already be aware, unemployment rates in rural communities, like Imperial County, have seen those numbers reach as high as 28% last summer. These same rural communities however, are also rich in land, water, and natural resources which make them prime for a green collar economy. Rather than building infrastructure and training a skilled workforce south of our border, let's help build our own communities first.

Just this past April, Governor Brown signed into law legislation that requires all California energy providers to purchase 33 percent of their energy from clean, renewable energy sources by 2020. As a state which possesses vast development potential from geothermal, solar, wind, and biomass sources, it is crucial that we move aggressively towards meeting our state's renewable energy goals while simultaneously encouraging investment from potential developers into our rural communities and regions.

DISTRICT OFFICES

RIVERSIDE COUNTY
45-677 Oasis St., Indio, CA 92201
(760)342-8047 / FAX (760) 347-8704


IMPERIAL COUNTY
1625 W. Main St, #220, El Centro, CA 92243
(760) 336-8912 / FAX (760) 336-8914

Dr. Steven Chu
Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
Page 2

As Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy and now recently appointed to head the Select Committee on Renewable Energy Economy in Rural California, my number one priority is to foster job creation and economic stimulus here in the United States. Therefore, I once again urge you to deny the Presidential permit request from ESJ-U.S.

Thank you for your time and please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions regarding this matter, I can be reached in my Capitol office in Sacramento at 916-319-2080.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. Manuel Pérez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "V" at the beginning.

V. MANUEL PÉREZ
Assemblymember, District 80

cc: Governor Jerry Brown
Senator Barbara Boxer, U.S. Senate
Senator Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senate
Congressman Bob Filner, U.S. Congress
Senator Juan Vargas, State Senate
Anthony J. Como, U.S. Department of Energy