



Local 569



Local 230



Local 206



Local 5



Local 229



Local 669

May 3, 2011

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

Dear Secretary Chu:

The San Diego and Imperial Counties Mechanical and Allied Crafts Council (MAC) represents more than 10,000 mechanical crafts trades people throughout Southern California. Today we 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 or raid natural resources. For these reasons, we respectfully request that you reject Sempra's application for a cross-border Presidential Permit.

Sincerely,



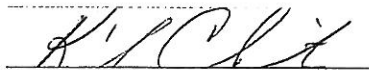
---

Joseph Powell  
Secretary-Treasurer  
San Diego and Imperial Counties  
Mechanical and Allied Crafts Council  
Business Manager  
Sheetmetal Workers Local 206



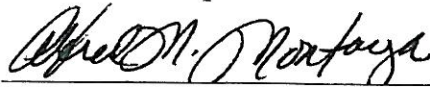
---

Johnny Simpson  
Business Manager  
International Brotherhood of Electrical  
Workers Local 569



---

Kirk Crosswhite  
Business Manager  
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 230



---

Alfred Montoya  
Business Manager  
Asbestos Workers Local 5



---

Jose Naranjo  
Business Manager  
Ironworkers Local 229



---

Dale O'Dell  
Business Agent District #22  
Road Sprinkler Fitters UA Local 669

cc: Senator Barbara Boxer  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Congressman Bob Filner, 51<sup>st</sup> Congressional District  
California Assembly Member Manuel V. Perez, 80<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
California State Senator Juan Vargas, 40<sup>th</sup> State Senate District  
Anthony Como, Director, Permitting and Siting, U.S. Department of Energy

:dkm  
opeiu #537, afl-cio, clc