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February 18, 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 Center on Policy Initiatives is a San Diego, California non-profit advocating for social and economic justice for working families. As the Construction Careers Director, 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, California.


The transmission project proposed in the application would undermine several stated goals of President Obama which CPI and our members strongly agree with:

1. **We need to focus on the creation of jobs in America.** Extremely high unemployment persists on the California-Mexico border in Imperial County (28.3%). Investment should benefit Americans.
2. **We need to focus on domestic energy production.** Our nation's economic future and security depends on developing energy infrastructure within our own borders.
3. **Californians overwhelmingly vote for the environment.** In November 2010, nearly 6 million Californians (61.6%) voted to against Proposition 23 and saved our greenhouse gas law, AB 32. It is clear that the citizens want clean energy that meets strict environmental standards. Mexico does not require the high standards that Californians expect.

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We must rebuild America's middle class and not allow opportunities for corporations to export our jobs, exploit workers, or raid natural resources. For these reasons, I respectfully request that you reject Sempra Energy's application for a cross-border Presidential Permit.

Sincerely yours,


Corinne Wilson
Construction Careers Director
Center on Policy Initiatives
San Diego, California

Copy to:
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer