

Submitter: D Torres

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB634

Chair & Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for specifying that hydropower should be considered a valid and essential energy source for compliance with a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). As we continue to strive for a more sustainable energy future, it is critical that we fully leverage the wide range of renewable resources available to us, and hydropower has long proven to be a reliable, clean, and effective option in achieving these goals.

#### The Role of Hydropower in a Renewable Energy Future

Hydropower has been a cornerstone of clean energy production for over a century. It is one of the most mature, well-established renewable energy technologies, capable of generating large-scale, reliable electricity with minimal emissions. Not only does hydropower provide a significant portion of the renewable energy generation in many regions, but it also serves as a reliable source of baseload power. This characteristic makes it a unique complement to intermittent renewable sources like wind and solar, ensuring grid stability and reliability.

By including hydropower in the RPS, we recognize the importance of a diversified approach to achieving renewable energy goals. While wind, solar, and other renewables may be considered vital for future growth, hydropower plays a critical role in ensuring energy security and addressing the fluctuations in renewable energy availability.

#### Environmental and Social Benefits of Hydropower

It is important to note that hydropower, particularly when modernized or developed with careful environmental considerations, can contribute positively to reducing carbon emissions and supporting sustainable development. In addition to generating clean energy, hydropower facilities often offer ancillary benefits such as flood control, water storage, and recreational opportunities. Hydropower also tends to have a lower overall land-use footprint compared to other large-scale energy sources like fossil fuels and nuclear power.

Furthermore, hydropower has proven to be one of the most cost-effective renewable energy sources. The efficiency and longevity of hydropower plants make them an economically viable option for long-term clean energy production, which is crucial as we work to meet ambitious renewable energy targets in an affordable manner.

### Supporting Innovation and Future Development

When hydropower is recognized as an eligible resource under an RPS, it can also encourage investments in new technologies and modernized infrastructure. The development of run-of-river and small-scale hydropower projects offers a promising avenue for meeting renewable energy goals with minimal environmental disruption, further enhancing the environmental

Please SUPPORT and PASS SB 634 forward.

Thank you.