

What Others Are Saying About SB 540

"In addition to being vital for energy affordability and reliability, the Pathways Initiative and SB 540 would open up critical markets for California clean energy, including distributed energy resources (DERs) and virtual power plants, supporting these important California industries," said **Edson Perez, California policy lead at Advanced Energy United**. "The choice for California is clear. Doing nothing will increase costs to ratepayers while moving ahead with the Pathways Initiative will save ratepayers millions, make the grid more reliable, and create jobs in California's clean energy industry."

"SB 540 is a rare triple win. It would provide more affordable, reliable, and clean energy not just for customers of Silicon Valley Clean Energy, but for customers throughout California and the West. Thank you to Senator Becker for authoring this bill, and we look forward to working with him on its passage." - **Monica Padilla, CEO, Silicon Valley Clean Energy**.

"SB 540 focuses on reducing rates, increasing reliability, and bringing more clean energy to the grid through enhanced regional collaboration. CEBA believes participation in a regional electricity system is crucial for California's energy future. We commend Senator Becker and Senator Stern on their leadership on this issue" - **Nidhi Thakar, Senior Vice President, Policy, Clean Energy Buyers Association**

"SB 540 is a rare opportunity to help make reliable operation of the electric grid for California and the rest of the West [easier to achieve](#) while still protecting state prerogatives for resource procurement and the public interest. The changes allowed by SB 540 will mean California and the West can more easily help each other and make better use of the grid and resources to meet new demand in the most affordable way possible. A good step for California and its neighbors!" - **Scott Miller, Executive Director, Western Power Trading Forum**

"Affordability depends on smart policy design. SB 540 leverages market dynamics, rather than new spending or mandates, to reduce rate pressure. This is exactly the kind of solution that California should be targeting and the reason why CalChamber supports SB 540 as a Cost Cutter on its inaugural Affordability Agenda." - **Jon Kendrick, Policy Advocate, California Chamber of Commerce**

"This bill reflects the kind of smart, targeted reform our Affordability Agenda is built around. SB 540 doesn't require new taxes, subsidies, or mandates; it delivers long-term savings by modernizing how we share and dispatch power." - **Jon Kendrick, Policy Advocate, California Chamber of Commerce**

"AWS supports SB 540 as a critical step toward a more integrated and efficient Western energy market. California's participation in markets with the largest possible footprint will enhance grid reliability, expand access to clean energy, and reduce energy costs

through improved coordination and optimized use of resources.” - **Shannon Kellogg, VP of Public Policy, AWS Americas**

"We are grateful to the Senate Energy Committee—and especially Chair Josh Becker—for advancing SB 540 today. This bill reflects extensive stakeholder collaboration and will help ensure a clean, reliable electric grid by strengthening partnerships and collaboration with our neighboring western states." - **Daniel Barad, Western States Policy Manager, Union of Concerned Scientists**

“SB 540 modernizes California’s grid operations to better align with today’s energy reality. By coordinating across the West, we can optimize clean energy use, improve reliability, and significantly reduce emissions—all while saving hundreds of millions of dollars a year in energy costs”. - **Ted Bardacke, CEO, Clean Power Alliance**

“WRA supports SB 540 passage as it would enable a regionalized Western electric grid that enhances reliability and help create a west-wide market for wholesale electricity trades. A west-wide electricity market would not only facilitate compliance with CA’s environmental policies at a lower cost to CA customers but also support the rest of the west by creating opportunities for CA based clean energy resources to be exported to the larger Western market. Further, such a regionalized market would also result in reductions of renewable curtailments and west-wide emissions through greater clean energy generation in clean energy rich areas of western US. A centralized grid market operator would remove blockages to the operation of a larger transmission system and will directly benefit CA customers as well as customers across the larger region.” - **Vijay Satyal, Deputy Director, Markets and Transmission, Western Resources Advocates**

“SB 540 takes a critical step towards California’s clean energy future. It unlocks the fastest, cheapest options for clean energy growth while providing new tools to prevent blackouts,” said **Michael Colvin, Director, California Energy Program at Environmental Defense Fund**. “Powering our economy on clean energy will require developing a lot more clean energy sources. By expanding western energy markets, California can sell its surplus clean energy, increase financial benefits to those who invest in it, and push more expensive dirty energy out of use. Today’s limited energy markets mean California’s surplus clean power is routinely underutilized and even wasted, especially solar.”

“California has an opportunity to lead the way in building a cleaner, more affordable, and more reliable energy future,” said **Mary Creasman, CEO of EnviroVoters**. “By continuing to coordinate with our partners in the West, we can reduce emissions, improve grid reliability, and prevent blackouts. A modernized, regional energy market is a critical step toward a sustainable and resilient grid that benefits all Californians.”

“PCE has been closely tracking the Pathways Initiative over the past year, and we appreciate the thoughtful and solution-oriented collaboration of energy leaders and partners in creating a proposal that benefits consumers by lowering energy costs,

expands renewable energy supply, and helps achieve California's ambitious climate change goals," said **Shawn Marshall, Chief Executive Officer of Peninsula Clean Energy.**