

The following document is a compilation of written comments received from members of the public who did not speak during the meeting. These comments are posted individually on the Legislature's website for this meeting and can be found at the address below:

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/InterimCommittee/REL/Interim2023/Meeting/34435>

Feb 23, 2024

Members of the Growth and Infrastructure Committee,

I write to you on behalf of the Solar Energy Industries Association¹ (SEIA) regarding recent discussions surrounding third-party solar developers and the procurement practices of NV Energy, particularly in light of their implications for renewable energy development in the state of Nevada. SEIA is the national trade association for the solar and storage industries, building a comprehensive vision for the advancement of these technologies. SEIA works with its 1,200 member companies and other strategic partners to create jobs and diversity, champion the use of cost-competitive solar in America, remove market barriers, and educate the public on the benefits of solar energy. The solar industry employs more than 7,500 people in Nevada.

It has come to our attention that there exists a narrative suggesting that challenges in meeting recent procurement obligations stem from the actions of third-party developers. SEIA strongly disputes this, along with the portrayal of third-party developers as unreliable. These characterizations not only undermine consumer confidence, but also deter financial partners from investing in renewable energy projects. They are also untrue.

Over the past two years, the global solar market has experienced significant price fluctuations due to supply chain disruptions, leading to an increased cost for solar panels and essential raw materials. As a result, developers have been forced to renegotiate existing contracts. During this period of renegotiation, NV Energy opted not to adjust contract terms, resulting in the cancellation of 1,200 megawatts (MW) of renewable power purchase agreements and build transfer projects.

Notably, NV Energy has shifted its resource plans away from third-party developed projects to an energy development mix, favoring new natural gas and internally developed projects ostensibly to address concerns regarding third party development. That said, NV Energy's development efforts have met the same challenges confronting third party developers. For example, NV Energy's company owned Dry Lake Solar project is delayed and will not meet its original projected commercial operation date. It perhaps is not surprising that the utility has struggled with its initial foray into renewable development, as it has little to no experience in that arena. As you know, while the utility has developed many thermal generation projects throughout its history, it is not a renewable developer. This is concerning given the size and scope of the utility's proposed renewable development plans. For example, it recently sought approval from the Public Utilities Commission to develop the Sierra Solar Project. NV Energy estimates the cost of the project will exceed \$1.5 billion. It is concerning that the utility is choosing to pursue the development of such an impactful project without a history of successfully developing renewable projects on time and on budget.

What's more, the utility has shifted its development approach to a method that presents substantial risk to ratepayers—substantially more than third party development. For Sierra Solar NV Energy has proposed to include the project in rate base without any contractual protections for ratepayers. As such, NV Energy is proposing that ratepayers be potentially liable for the total project costs regardless of whether the project

¹ The comments contained in this letter represent the position of SEIA as an organization, but not necessarily the views of any particular member with respect to any issue

comes in on budget and/or on time. This is very different than a third party developed project in connection with which the utility negotiates a fixed per Mwh price for energy that is only required to be paid if the project meets the various contractual requirements—including commercial operation date. Thus, while NV Energy professes to need to develop its own renewable projects to protect ratepayers from contractual breaches by third party developers, it will not bind itself to those same types of commitments. What's more, the utility would be entitled to a regulated return on the investment. This is not a feature of third party developed projects under power purchase agreements.

NV Energy's effort to pivot away from third party development in favor of company developed rate based renewable projects is also evident from Request for Proposal (RFP) process. In 2023, the utility instituted significantly shortened timelines for developers to adjust to new requirements not only relating to pricing but also to restraints on supplier relationships. To secure selection, developers had to hold a price for longer than financially viable.

While the recent passage of AB524 regulates NV Energy's procurement practices, the 1,200 MW of canceled projects occurred before the legislation's effective date. Consequently, the affected developers were not afforded the protections and guidelines outlined in the new statute, which exacerbated the challenge of developing the lowest-cost options for Nevadans.

The regulatory and procurement shifts initiated by NV Energy have presented obstacles for renewable energy developers in Nevada. More broadly, third-party developers have adapted to changes, developing risk mitigation measures and strengthening supplier relationships with proactive procurement and supply diversification. Among other things, the last twelve months has seen the announcement of an expansion of photovoltaic panel manufacturing, which will support the continued third-party development of renewable resources in Nevada.

SEIA and its members look forward to continuing to support the advancement of Nevada's energy goals. Please reach out to me at 415-385-7240 or sbirmingham@siea.org with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Sara Birmingham
Vice President of State Affairs
Solar Energy Industries Association

Dear Chair Senator Harris and Vice-Chair Assemblyman Watts,

I am President of HyMAX, a startup pursuing building a consumer hydrogen fuel cell (FCEV) filling station network in Nevada. The goal of this email to you and the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Growth and Infrastructure is first, to get on the radar of this committee as far as clean energy is concerned but also to ask for your support in this network building endeavor. Why is hydrogen so important to me? As BMW Group Chairman Oliver Zipse put it: "Hydrogen is the missing piece for emission-free mobility, because a single technology will not be enough to enable climate-neutral mobility worldwide." The chairmen of both Hyundai and Toyota have similar feelings.

I reiterate Mr. Zipse's position this way – the 359 million cars in North America can NEVER all be converted to all-electric so there must be other methods studied and substantial investment made in order to get to the greenhouse gas reductions society needs to make. Not only that, with 42% of all Nevadans being renters, the likelihood of hundreds of thousands of us migrating to EVs is quite low due to the lack of convenient charging options. Moreover, the fact that almost ALL of the electricity used in Nevada is generated somewhere else means the cost of shifting a million vehicles to electric will ultimately be more costly than anyone (including NV Energy) is willing to admit.

I believe that the adoption of fuel cell technology needs to happen sooner than later even if there are still a few hydrogen supply hiccups occurring in California, where almost 15,000 FCEVs and nearly 80 filling stations operate right now! If the market expands then production and distribution issues will work themselves out faster. My goal is to establish the market in Nevada and then work to build supply and distribution channels here in Nevada as well. Supporting the growth of the region with clean energy businesses that are likewise good for the economy and the environment is the definition of a win-win.

I would appreciate your help and support in laying the groundwork to a new renewable future right here in Nevada. Of course, feel free to share my contact information as appropriate with anyone you feel would be able to help.

Best regards,

Dery K. Daye
President
HyMAX Development Corporation

cc: Senator Carrie A. Buck
Senator Skip Daly
Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May
Assemblyman Max Carter
Assemblywoman Jill Dickman
Assemblywoman Danielle Gallant
Senator Ira Hansen
Senator Julie Pazina
Assemblywoman Heidi Kasama
Assemblywoman Brittney Miller
Assemblywoman Shondra Summers-Armstrong
Joint Interim Standing Committee on Growth and Infrastructure
Nevada Legislature Research Division



Coalition for Patient Rights: Administration

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Subject: Introduction of the Coalition for Patient Rights | Request for Legislative Support

ATTN: Joint Interim Standing Committee on Growth and Infrastructure,

March 13th, 2024

Dear Honorable Members of the Nevada Legislature and Respective Committees,

My name is Jeff Krajnak, and I serve as the President for the Coalition for Patient Rights (CPR). As a staunch advocate for advancing and protecting Nevada patient rights, I am reaching out to introduce a 501(c)(4) organization that I believe aligns closely with Nevada's values. The Coalition For Patient Rights seeks your committee's support for a series of bill draft resolutions for the upcoming 83rd Session of the Nevada Legislature.

The Coalition for Patient Rights is dedicated to advocating for the rights and dignity of patients within the healthcare system. Our mission is to bring about regulatory change that addresses system failures, educates the public and providers on available treatment options, and improves the healthcare environment. We aim to safeguard patients, new technologies and such, while ensuring that the voices of patients are heard and their rights are respected in the halls of legislatures and Congress, especially when the voices of special interests get too loud. CPR is currently focusing on securing several key patients' rights bill draft resolutions (BDR's) for the 83rd Session of the Nevada Legislature, that are crucial for advancing our cause. We believe that your support and expertise would be invaluable in advancing these initiatives.

Key Objectives:

- **Patient Privacy and Consent:** Enhancing protections for patient privacy and ensuring informed consent in all medical decisions.
- **Access to Care:** Removing barriers to access and advocating for policies that guarantee equitable and timely healthcare for all Nevadans.
- **Protection Against Discrimination-Incarceration:** Promoting legislation that safeguards patients from discrimination based on medical conditions, gender, race, or socioeconomic status and protections from potential incarceration from archaic laws.
- **Education and Awareness:** Increasing awareness among the public and healthcare providers about available treatment options and the importance of patient-centered care.
- **Technology and Innovation:** Supporting regulations that foster innovation in healthcare while ensuring patient safety and privacy.



We believe that collaboration with the Nevada Legislature and its committees is essential to advancing these legislative efforts. We are eager to work with you to develop and support bill draft resolutions that reflect the needs and interests of patients in our state.

Furthermore, we are committed to fostering bidirectional inclusion in discussions about the future scope of patient rights. From plant-based medicines like medical cannabis and ayahuasca, to psilocybin and adaptogenic mushrooms like turkey-tail and lion's mane, we intend on aligning patients with natural modalities to redirect their own wellness plans. We understand the importance of collaboration and diverse perspectives in reshaping policies that truly reflect the needs and interests of patients. We would be honored to have you and your staff join us in these discussions, ensuring that the voices of patients are at the forefront of your future decision-making processes.

We respectfully request the opportunity to meet with you and discuss how we can collaborate to make a meaningful impact on the healthcare landscape in Nevada. Together, we can create a healthcare system that truly prioritizes the rights and well-being of patients.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to the possibility of working together to champion Patient Rights in Nevada.

Sincerely,

/Jeff Krajnak/

President Coalition for Patient Rights

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