



April 1, 2019

Dear Chairwoman Cancela;

CC: Members of the Growth and Infrastructure Committee

As businesses with a significant interest in maintaining Nevada's leadership in advanced energy, we join the Advanced Energy Economy (AEE), a national business organization, to express strong support for Senate Bill 358. Sponsored by Senator Brooks, this bill would increase the state's renewable portfolio standard (RPS) to 50% by 2030 – the first such increase since 2009. This increase is projected to generate \$1.5 billion in investments and create over 11,100 jobs throughout the state by 2030.¹

Advanced energy technologies encompass a broad range of innovative products and services that provide reliable electricity to all. Among these are renewable energy like geothermal, wind and solar, energy efficiency, demand response, energy storage, electric vehicles, and the suite of technologies that enable a smarter, more connected electric grid.

Advanced energy has been an economic boon for Nevada's urban and rural communities, as the industry has now created more than 25,400 advanced energy jobs across the state. Aided by the strong RPS passed in 2009, the Governor's Office of Energy successfully implemented a tax abatement program for renewable energy development. This program has led to 41 projects being developed, employing more than 8,000 Nevadans in construction jobs with an average wage of \$41.70 per hour.²

The economic benefits of increasing the state's RPS expand beyond direct investments and job creation. Forward thinking policies encourage the diversification of Nevada's energy investments, which protects all Nevadans from volatile and fluctuating energy prices, and strengthens the state's regional competitiveness to attract new businesses to the Silver State. At a time when neighboring states are enacting ambitious goals, SB358 ensures Nevada's position as an advanced energy leader.

¹ Sullivan, Dylan, "Question 6 in Nevada Would Create Thousands of Jobs", October, 2018. <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/dylan-sullivan/question-6-nevada-would-create-thousands-jobs>

² Nevada Governor's Office of Energy Renewable Energy Tax Abatement Program Fact Sheet, March 2019. http://energy.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/energynvgov/content/Programs/RETA_Fact_Sheet_March_2019.pdf

Like many of the companies with operations in or looking to expand to Nevada, we understand the economic opportunities presented by clean energy technologies. Meanwhile, technological advancements are making advanced energy products and services more cost-competitive with traditional power plants. Across the country, solar and wind energy – as a standalone resource or when paired with storage – are as competitive, and in certain cases more competitive, than natural gas generation with significant cost savings being passed on to consumers and businesses.

In order for the state to build on this success, delivering economic growth and diversifying its energy portfolio, lawmakers should support increasing the RPS to 50% by 2030, as has been proposed in SB358.

Now's the time to double down on investing in these cost-effective technologies that not only create homegrown jobs and diversify the state's energy mix, but also ensure customers benefit from affordable energy.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. We look forward to working with you and respectfully ask you utilize the undersigned and AEE as a resource as this debate moves forward.

Sincerely,

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Tesla, Inc.

Chris King
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