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June 18, 2026

The Honorable Benjamin Allen
Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 3350
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2647 (Calderon) – Oppose Unless Amended

Dear Chair Allen,

The undersigned organizations write to inform you of our serious reservations about the merits of AB 2647 (Calderon). We respectfully urge the committee to not pass this bill without the amendments described below.

Nuclear energy comes with significant costs and risks. If California is to assess the potential consequences of inviting new nuclear reactors into the state, it is imperative that such an assessment be conducted carefully, with rigor and neutrality. AB 2647, as written, would direct the California Energy Commission (CEC) to conduct a study structured such that it could be expected to produce a biased, incomplete assessment.

Key amendments to AB 2647 that would strengthen the CEC study envisioned by the bill include:

- Studying the impact that nuclear energy projects would have on California ratepayers (in Georgia, the country's most recently completed nuclear reactors raised ratepayer bills by 25%);

- Assessing the environmental justice implications of nuclear energy projects (in 2021, the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council [advised against](#) nuclear power);
- Addressing critical economic questions, including the state’s potential financial liability exposure from increased spent fuel storage and reactor accidents considering the limits of the Price-Anderson Act, and specifically directing the nuclear waste management cost projections to extend across the hundreds of thousands of years that spent nuclear fuel will remain hazardous;
- Incorporating throughout the study a comparative analysis of the specific implications presented by each of the technically distinct nuclear energy technologies currently or foreseeably in development in the United States;
- A more realistic timeline. As stated in Appropriations Committee analysis, “CEC notes ... that the July 2027 deadline is infeasible.”

Were the bill amended in the manner described above, we would still have serious concerns about the merits of AB 2647. It would impose a topic of study on the CEC, rather than letting our state’s energy experts decide their own study priorities. It would require the expenditure of nearly \$2 million from an account that the CEC says “is in a structural deficit.” And because key components of our country’s nuclear energy infrastructure do not currently exist – including, notably, a system to manage and dispose of spent nuclear fuel – the study would be premature and thus likely need to be redone.

Though the United States began producing spent nuclear fuel in December of 1942, our country still has not developed the means to responsibly dispose of this high-level nuclear waste, which will remain dangerously radioactive for hundreds of thousands of years. Despite the best efforts of dedicated community groups and elected officials, communities in California around existing or former nuclear power plants – including San Onofre, Humboldt Bay, Rancho Seco, and Diablo Canyon – continue to struggle with the serious challenges posed by spent nuclear fuel.

One consequence of the ongoing non-existence of a spent nuclear fuel disposal system is the inability to confidently forecast costs of such a spent nuclear fuel disposal system. Supreme Court Justice Byron White wrote, in the majority opinion for the unanimous [1983 Supreme Court decision](#) upholding California’s nuclear energy moratorium, that when a means of disposing of spent nuclear fuel “is selected and demonstrated, the utilities and the California Public Utilities Commission would be able to estimate costs; such cost estimates cannot be made until the Federal Government has settled upon the method of long-term waste disposal.” Thus, any analysis of costs relating to high-level nuclear waste disposal that is completed before such a disposal program is established would be speculative, and would have to be redone.

Before being amended in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, AB 2647 was initially a bill to effectively end California's longstanding moratorium on new nuclear energy. AB 2647, as currently written, seems intended to lay the groundwork to accomplish in a future legislative session what AB 2647 could not this year: the lifting of California's nuclear energy moratorium. As is further detailed in the letter opposing the original version of this bill, we are currently living through a time of unprecedented deregulation of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) by the Trump administration. The NRC has exclusive regulatory jurisdiction over nuclear reactor safety. If California ends its moratorium on siting new nuclear reactors, the state would be entirely beholden to the oversight of the NRC, regardless of how degraded the federal agency becomes. In this dangerous time, California must proceed cautiously indeed.

If you must advance AB 2647, we urge you to amend the bill as provided above to ensure that any assessment of the potential role of nuclear energy in California is conducted with the highest standards of accuracy and integrity.

Sincerely,

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Committee to Bridge the Gap

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