



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 18, 2023

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Clean Energy, Business, and Environmental Leaders Praise New Collaboration Among Western States, including California, to Create a Regional Transmission Organization

(Sacramento, CA) – On Friday afternoon, California state energy regulators joined counterparts from Arizona, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington in committing to create a regional transmission organization in the West and announced a new stakeholder process for public engagement. Members of [Lights on California](#) – a coalition of clean energy, business, and environmental organizations urging greater energy regionalization across the West – support this development and look forward to participating in the stakeholder process moving forward.

Regulators publicized their intentions in [this letter](#) sent to the Western Interstate Energy Board, a compact of 11 states and two western Canadian provinces, and its Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation that work to ensure the benefits of wholesale electricity markets are maximized across the West. The letter states: “This group plans to work, along with all other states and stakeholders willing to participate in this effort, through an initial phase of the project this year. In that initial phase, an effort catalyzed by state involvement would decide key elements of how the independent entity would be formed and structured. The project would enter an implementation phase early in 2024....”

Brady Van Engelen, Policy Advocate on Energy and Climate, California Chamber of Commerce:

“This letter demonstrates the fact that western energy regulators understand that there is an urgent need to expand regionalization. Our energy system faces ongoing strains from extreme heat, drought, and wildfires. California cannot afford to be left behind while the rest of the West looks for regional solutions to prevent blackouts and keep energy costs in check. As more sectors of the economy shift to clean power, we need a regional transmission organization to keep the lights on and energy rates affordable. We are pleased to see California again leading the way on this essential multi-state effort.”

Amisha Rai, Vice President of Policy and Advocacy, Advanced Energy United:

“Seven regional transmission organizations operate in other regions of the country, serving nearly half the states and two-thirds of energy demand. We have an incredible opportunity to learn from these experiences and collaboratively shape what the grid of the future looks like across the West. A single western energy market remains essential for shifting to clean energy through the fastest and cheapest options, producing the next generation of clean energy jobs, and preventing blackouts.”

Alex Jackson, Director, American Clean Power-California:

“California relies on its neighbors to import a third of its power. This letter sends a strong signal that California is ready to help lead the effort to work together, across state lines, to keep the lights on. Regionalization provides the path to develop affordable, reliable clean energy resources and deliver clean power where it’s needed. The heat emergency experienced across most of the West and southern states reminds all of us that we must act quickly to build a stronger grid to endure these and other climate extremes. ”

Katelyn Roedner Sutter, California State Director, Environmental Defense Fund:

“California and the utilities serving 80% of energy customers across the West share ambitious carbon-free clean energy goals. The fastest, cheapest options to reach those goals come from working together to create a 21st Century energy grid. Building it requires our leaders to think differently. We have been urging California to demonstrate its commitment to collaborate on the West’s energy challenges. This letter is the signal we’ve been waiting for.”

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Lights On California is a coalition of clean energy, business, and environmental advocates committed to expanding clean energy adoption through regional cooperation across the West. More information is available at: LightsOnCA.org. Follow us on Twitter at [@LightsonCalif](https://twitter.com/LightsonCalif).