July 8, 2020

The Honorable Dianne DeGette
U.S. House of Representatives
2111 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative DeGette:

The Northern California Power Agency (NCPA) has a long-standing commitment to investing in clean energy infrastructure. As a joint-action agency established in 1968, our consortium of locally-owned utility systems was founded on the principle of environmental stewardship, and invested early in renewable resources to ensure a clean, reliable, and affordable energy supply for our member communities and districts. We are leaders in meeting the climate goals of California—and continue to pursue leading-edge investments in clean energy, including partially repowering our Lodi Energy Center fast-start natural gas plant with renewable hydrogen using an on-site water supply. NCPA is supportive of federal climate legislation that recognizes the investments we have made, avoids conflicting or duplicative requirements, fosters technological innovation and clean energy investments, and supports a broader achievement of carbon reductions. Your legislation, the Clean Energy Innovation and Deployment Act, is an important step in achieving those goals.

As you know, California is a national leader in energy policy—and NCPA has been on the front lines of those efforts. The State has adopted a series of increasing renewable portfolio targets, and is now on a path to achieve 100% carbon-free energy by 2045. California’s carbon policy leadership has placed the State on a path to reduce its carbon footprint to 40% below 1990 levels by the year 2030. State efforts on energy efficiency, energy storage, and electrification of the transportation sector are also significant. Any new federal policy should recognize and accommodate these actions. NCPA is pleased that your legislation ensures compliance for those entities in states with climate policies that are at least as stringent as those in the Clean Energy Innovation and Development Act. This provision provides the consistency and assurance NCPA desires in order to support continued clean energy investments.

We also commend you for including provisions in your bill that:

- Enable public power retail utilities to voluntarily transfer compliance obligation to their affiliate joint action agency supplier;
- Provide equity in investment incentives by making tax credits for wind, solar, storage and other zero-emission technologies transferable—so public power can benefit;
- Credit electric utilities for efforts to green the economy through beneficial electrification;
• Limits the penalty for hydropower reservoir emissions to new reservoirs created after the date of enactment;
• Create an expansive workforce training program to include the retraining of any displaced workers; and
• Advance cutting-edge technologies, like NCPA’s partial repowering of the natural gas-fired Lodi Energy Center with renewable hydrogen, through federal research and development and grants.

Your legislation provides an important step forward in the federal climate debate, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to advance environmentally sound and economically responsive legislation.

Sincerely,

RANDY S. HOWARD
General Manager
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