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March 14, 2025

The Honorable Monique Limón
Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3220
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 567 (Limón), Gravity-Based Energy Storage Wells – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Limón,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our support for your bill, SB 567, which would create a Gravity-Based Energy Storage Well Pilot Program until January 1, 2035, allowing up to 1,000 inactive oil and gas wells to be converted into energy storage systems.

These inactive wells would help generate and store energy with regular safety checks, constant leak monitoring, and immediate shutdowns if a well experiences any problems. The pilot program allows ample implementation time with a review scheduled in 2033 to decide if it is meeting expectations.

Kern is committed to helping our oil and gas companies repurpose their assets to enhance financial stability, create jobs, and generate essential county revenue. Supporting continued employment for oil and gas workers is crucial for the long-term economic strength and sustainability of our community. Transforming inactive wells for uses such as energy storage, carbon capture and sequestration, and geothermal applications provides valuable job opportunities for local workers who already possess the expertise needed to drive these projects forward.

Similarly, the pilot program will create an opportunity to establish technology and research hubs in Kern, connecting local higher education institutions with tech companies to develop innovation centers focused on new energy projects. By capitalizing on these opportunities, communities with inactive wells can rejuvenate their economies, generate sustainable jobs, and transition into emerging industries while utilizing existing infrastructure and skilled labor.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors supports this legislation and urges its passage in the Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Leticia Perez', with a large, stylized initial 'L' and 'P'.

Leticia Perez, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange