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April 27, 2026

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2157 (Connolly & Bryan), Displaced Oil and Gas Worker Program extension –
SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Wicks,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support for AB 2157 (Connolly & Bryan), which would indefinitely extend the Displaced Oil and Gas Worker Pilot Program and require an independent assessment and recommended design for transitioning the pilot into a permanent statewide workforce program.

Kern County has been a leading participant in the program and has seen tangible, data-driven results that demonstrate both the need for and the effectiveness of continued state investment. As of March 31, 2026 Kern County Employers' Training Resource (ETR) has reported the following outcomes:

- 494 participants enrolled, surpassing the program's enrollment goal by 103%.
- 155 workers placed into unsubsidized employment, providing stable and reliable income for local families.
- 39 participants earned industry-recognized certificates, strengthening long-term employability.
- 52 individuals received work-based learning or training, supporting skill development in high-demand sectors.
- Program expenditures total just over \$6 million, representing 86% of the planned budget, with funds directed to training, staffing, work-based learning, and participant supports—all aligned with program goals.

The program's success has also been supported by strong partnerships with education providers and employers, including collaborations with training institutions and local businesses. These partnerships have benefited from on-the-job training (OJT) wage reimbursements, which help reduce hiring barriers and create sustainable career pathways for displaced workers. The County has also invested heavily in outreach and community engagement, including informational sessions, targeted

media promotions, and a job fair featuring 18 employers, to ensure workers understand and can access available services. These outcomes make clear that the pilot is working as intended.

AB 2157's requirement for the Employment Development Department to partner with the UC Berkeley Labor Center to evaluate the program and recommend a permanent statewide model is a prudent, data-driven step toward ensuring that California is prepared to support workers impacted by the State's renewable energy mandates. Kern County is on the front lines of this shift, and a permanent program will help prevent unemployment, safeguard family stability, and keep skilled workers contributing to the regional and state economy.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors strongly supports this measure and respectfully urges you to vote **YES on AB 2157**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phillip Peters", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Kern County Employers' Training Resource
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange