

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUPERVISORS

Phillip Peters District 1
Chris Parlier District 2
Jeff Flores District 3
David Couch District 4
Leticia Perez District 5



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

April 30, 2026

The Honorable Isaac Bryan
Chair, Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2712 (Ellis), Advancing practical energy regulation in California – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Bryan,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our support for AB 2712 (Ellis), which makes targeted and practical adjustments to California's regulatory framework governing oil and gas operations within health protection zones.

Kern County is home to one of the nation's most significant energy-producing regions. As the state continues to transition its energy portfolio, it remains critical that local governments have a clear, workable regulatory structure that maintains environmental protections while ensuring operational continuity for existing assets. AB 2712 accomplishes this balance.

AB 2712 narrows current restrictions so that they apply specifically to new wells, rather than to all well-related activities. This clarification ensures that essential maintenance, safety work, and responsible lifecycle management of existing wells can continue without unnecessary regulatory delay. The bill also updates related requirements, such as sensitive receptor mapping and bonding obligations, so that they align appropriately with the more limited scope of approvals for new wells.

Additionally, by repealing the prohibition on constructing or operating existing production facilities within health protection zones, the measure eliminates a blanket restriction that could otherwise impede local economic activity and prevent operators from implementing modernized, lower-impact production technologies.

Kern County shares the state's commitment to safeguarding public health and environmental quality. We believe AB 2712 provides a more balanced and implementable regulatory approach without diminishing these priorities. The bill gives counties and regulators the clarity they need to oversee ongoing production responsibly while focusing on heightened review where it is most relevant.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors supports this measure and respectfully urges you to vote **YES on AB 2712**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phillip Peters", with a stylized, flowing script.

Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange