

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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April 30, 2026

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

RE: AB 2711 (Ellis), Oil and gas well permit review – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Wicks,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support for AB 2711 (Ellis), which makes critical improvements to the state's oil and gas well permitting process administered by the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM).

Kern County is home to the majority of California's energy production, and our regulatory environment must support both environmental protection and operational efficiency. AB 2711 provides needed clarity, transparency, and predictability for operators while preserving CalGEM's oversight responsibilities.

Specifically, AB 2711 strengthens the permitting process by:

- Clearly identifying that the response period for CalGEM to approve or deny a Notice of Intention (NOI) to commence drilling is 30 working days, allowing the Division adequate time for review.
- Requiring that, if CalGEM denies an NOI, the agency must provide a rational explanation for the denial within 30 working days.
- Clarifying that the 24-month cancellation window begins upon approval of the NOI, rather than upon receipt of the request by CalGEM, ensuring operators have a clear and reasonable timeline for commencing operations.

These reforms promote transparency and accountability within the regulatory process while reducing unnecessary delays that can affect both public agencies and private operators. Kern County supports efforts that maintain strong environmental safeguards while also ensuring that local industries can operate efficiently.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors supports this measure and respectfully urges you to vote **YES on AB 2711**.

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 Planning and Natural Resources Department
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange