

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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September 18, 2026

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2124 (Pacheco), Third-party review of long-term cost impacts of CA energy policies – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request your signature on AB 2124 (Pacheco), a critical bi-partisan piece of legislation that improves how the state evaluates the long-term cost impacts of energy policies on California's hard-working utility customers.

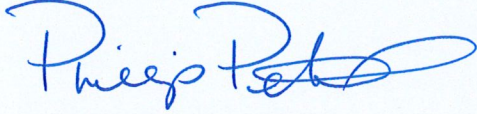
AB 2124 establishes a necessary and structured framework by directing the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) to independently analyze proposed legislation that creates mandated programs or otherwise impacts electricity and natural gas ratepayers.

California consumers currently face unprecedented utility rate pressures. Because the State's clean energy goals continue to shape broader legislative policy discussions, lawmakers must have clear visibility into the cumulative financial impacts that individual policy decisions place on families and businesses. By utilizing independent, third-party reviews, AB 2124 will help identify potentially redundant, duplicative, or cost-ineffective programs before they are codified into law. This oversight brings much-needed transparency, scientific objectivity, and fiscal discipline to our state's energy planning.

Furthermore, the bill appropriately includes rigorous conflict-of-interest parameters to ensure the absolute impartiality of the CCST's findings. By fostering evidence-based, cost-effective policymaking, AB 2124 ensures that California can continue its pursuit of its renewable energy benchmarks without placing an unsustainable, unvetted burden on utility ratepayers.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors strongly supports AB 2124 and urgently requests your signature to enact this important accountability measure into law.

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, Kern Legislative Delegation
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange