



League of California Cities-Latino Caucus

August 5, 2014

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The Honorable Ben Hueso
California State Senator
State Capitol, Room 2054
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **SB 1139 (Hueso)- Oppose unless amended**

Dear Senator Hueso :

The League of California Cities Latino Caucus is opposed unless amended to SB 1139 which would require the State's utilities to procure a certain percentage of new geothermal renewable power. This measure would be detrimental to the renewable facilities in some of our disadvantaged cities and would subsequently threaten the economic and environmental benefits this facility provides. We are seeking an amendment to allow current facilities to remain open and in operation.

The League of California Cities Latino Caucus is acutely aware of the problems facing today's baseload renewable generators such as biomass and geothermal. This is renewable power that provides benefits to the grid and this region 24/7 despite atmospheric conditions. Recent procurement practices by the State's investor-owned utilities in particular have essentially changed the structural composition of California's renewable energy program threatening the future of all baseload renewables.

While we appreciate what this bill is trying to do for the author's region, it is advocating, however, for new jobs on the backs of existing jobs located in cities such as Mendota. Five hundred megawatts may seem small but there is a shrinking need for baseload resources. If utilities are forced to purchase new geothermal, there will be no room in their portfolio to contract for the baseload renewable facility in our county. The result is loss of the economic and environmental benefit biomass provides across the state.

For these reasons we strongly urge you to oppose this technology specific procurement requirement and instead seek a solution that helps all baseload renewables both new and existing.

If you have any questions, or if I can be of any assistance, please call me at (916) 669-1340.

Sincerely,

Diane J. Martinez
President
League of California Cities Latino Caucus