

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 13, 2024

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm, Secretary
United State Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Re: Letter of Support for California’s “CHARGE-2T” Application for DE-FOA-0003195, Grid Innovation Partnership (GRIP) Program

Dear Secretary Granholm,

I write in support of California’s “CHARGE-2T” application to the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP) Program, and respectfully urge your full and fair consideration. This application represents an unprecedented public-private partnership that enables large-scale transmission capacity expansion and interconnection process improvements, accelerating equitable access to the renewable energy needed to power and decarbonize California’s economy while supporting and creating accessible good jobs. The application is led by the California Energy Commission, in partnership with the Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), and the University of California, Berkeley. “California Harnessing Advanced Reliable Grid Enhancing Technologies for Transmission,” or CHARGE 2T, would bring over \$1 billion in state matching funds and includes a community benefit plan funded at over \$100 million.

California (CA) has one of the largest and most modern power grids in the world and is globally recognized for transitioning its electric system to one that relies increasingly on clean energy. CA prides itself in being a first mover in deploying renewable energy and mitigating climate change, in line with the Biden-Harris administration’s goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. CA’s 100 % zero-carbon goal by 2045 law affirms our commitment to these shared goals and while CA has had much success, the rapid transition that is underway requires state and federal investment. For example, CA expects to develop and interconnect 86 gigawatts (GW) nameplate of new clean energy resources by 2035, including over 54 GW of renewable resources and over 28 GW of batteries.

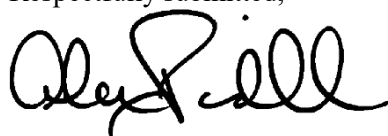
The CHARGE-2T application consists of a strategic and holistic two-pronged solution to address the significant challenges facing CA’s energy transition. First, CHARGE 2T will reconductor 415 miles of transmission lines with advanced conductor (AC) technologies and deploy various grid-enhancing technologies (GETs), namely dynamic line ratings (DLR), to quickly and significantly increase the CA system capacity to enable integration of more renewable energy onto the grid. Imminent deployment of these technologies is important because targeted applications of ACs can carry nearly twice the capacity of conventional conductors and DLRs can increase capacity by up to 44%. Second, CHARGE 2T supports new and ongoing interconnection reform efforts through (1) targeted process improvements, (2) transmission owner and state agency integrations with CAISO’s interconnection portal, (3) targeted workforce investment initiatives, and (4) educational resource development to enable renewable generation projects to move through the pipeline quicker and help address the shortage of skilled interconnection experts. Together, CHARGE 2T enhances the current infrastructure to support immediate needs and lays the groundwork for a more sustainable and

equitable future in CA.

CHARGE 2T is expected to benefit more than 30 million Californians, sustain 550+ jobs over the project timeline, support 1000+ individuals through education and training programs, support 20,000 indirect or induced jobs, and increase transmission capacity of the targeted lines to allow up to 5 GW of incremental renewable energy interconnection, with nearly 70% of investments directly benefitting disadvantaged communities. With added flexibility and smart controls, the modernization of our grid will contribute to a more reliable and resilient electric service while supporting and creating good union jobs.

I respectfully urge your full and fair consideration of California's "CHARGE-2T" application. Thank you for your attention and consideration of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Padilla". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "A" and "P".

ALEX PADILLA
United States Senator