



September 10, 2025

Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8120
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 825 (Petrie-Norris) v. 9/10/2025 – Support

Dear Assemblywoman Petrie-Norris,

The Public Advocates Office is the independent consumer advocate at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). We advocate for affordable, safe, and reliable utility services consistent with the state's climate and clean energy goals.

We support AB 825 (Petrie-Norris), which would allow the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) to implement the Pathways Initiative. Our Office serves as a non-voting member of the Pathway's Launch Committee, where we have consistently advocated for strong oversight, meaningful consumer engagement, and clear ratepayer benefits.

AB 825 would enable CAISO to expand its Extended Day Ahead Market (EDAM) to deliver significant ratepayer benefits through increased energy production cost savings. These savings would result from access to a broader pool of diverse and lower-cost energy resources. Expanding EDAM could also reduce renewable energy curtailment – when excess renewable energy is generated but must be ramped down due to lack of demand or transmission constraints – helping to lower the long-term costs of meeting the state's clean energy goals.

A larger regional market would also improve transmission availability and system resilience against outages, while enhancing overall grid reliability. It would reduce the likelihood of scarcity events, when electricity demand is high and supply is limited. While a majority of California's energy needs are met through procurement contracts, unexpected events – such as extreme weather – can create short-term reliability and supply challenges. A more expansive regional energy market can provide the flexibility and access needed to meet these conditions cost-effectively and with greater reliability.

In summary, AB 825 represents a significant opportunity to reduce energy costs, enhance grid reliability, and strengthen ratepayer representation in the western regional organization.

Sincerely,



Linda Serizawa
Director

