

ability of industry, regulated utilities and regulators alike to plan, permit and build the necessary electricity infrastructure.

The author decries the effect of these delays on the state's ability to meet its clean energy goals, as well as the potential to forgo federal monies available to the state now. According to the author:

Federal clean energy tax credits worth billions of dollars to California ratepayers are on the verge of expiring, and the single greatest obstacle to capturing those savings is the failure of our largest utilities to complete the grid upgrades needed to connect new clean energy projects. The CPUC's own data shows that nearly two-thirds of these transmission upgrades are delayed, with some languishing for over a decade. AB 2493 creates the independent oversight and enforceable accountability mechanisms needed to break through these delays before it is too late.

The bill is supported by a coalition of industry and environmental organizations, such as the Solar Energy Industries Association and the Natural Resources Defense Council, which collectively write:

On behalf of California's leading clean energy trade associations, advocacy organizations, and developers, we write in strong support of AB 2493, which would hold California's large investor-owned utilities (IOUs) accountable for widespread, costly delays in upgrading grid equipment needed to connect clean energy to the grid. This bill will help make electricity more affordable and reliable in California while advancing the state's clean energy and climate goals.

This bill is opposed by the IOUs. For example, San Diego Gas and Electric summarizes the bill as:

unnecessary given the CPUC's existing authority, will likely increase costs for customers, and raises serious safety, reliability, and jurisdictional concerns. Most importantly, it is unaligned with the Legislature's own stated priority of easing, rather than adding to, the financial burden on IOU ratepayers.

Similarly, Pacific Gas and Electric writes:

AB 2493 focuses exclusively on utility actions, yet interconnection timelines are often affected by customer driven redesigns, multijurisdictional permitting, procurement lead times, and right-of-way acquisition. A balanced approach should address end-to-end drivers of delay across all responsible parties rather than creating an electrical corporation only audit and remedial framework.

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