



March 30, 2021

The Honorable Suzette Martinez Valladares
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2158
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 418 – SUPPORT
As Introduced February 4, 2021**

Dear Assembly Member Valladares:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am writing to express our support for your Assembly Bill 418 regarding community power resiliency and to suggest some amendments that will improve the program's effectiveness. RCRC is an association of thirty-seven rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each member county.

RCRC member counties have suffered the lion's share of destruction caused by catastrophic wildfires over the past decade and experienced most of the state's Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events. We do not underestimate the risk of wildfire danger and appreciate the role that expertly-informed, tailored PSPS events play in avoiding catastrophic wildfires; however, PSPS events can have debilitating consequences in many of our communities, where local governments are often least able to shoulder the additional costs and lost revenues.

AB 418 seeks to codify a Community Power Resiliency Program modeled after some of the recent Office of Emergency Services grant allocations to counties, cities, special districts and tribal governments.

RCRC appreciates previous allocations of grant funding to counties to partially offset unanticipated PSPS-related costs; however, much more assistance is needed. RCRC supports AB 418's effort to establish a permanent Community Power Resiliency Program at the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services to facilitate local assistance for projects that improve the energy resiliency of local communities.

While we support additional funding to help communities cope with PSPS events, our overarching goal is that utilities will soon no longer need to call PSPS events.

1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814 | www.rcrcnet.org | 916.447.4806 | Fax: 916.448.3154

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Unfortunately, we are sadly several years away from that point. We note that the need for community energy resiliency extends beyond the PSPS realm, as power outages can have a wide variety of causes, including natural disasters, fires, and grid issues.

We are pleased to support AB 418 but suggest amending the bill to clarify key terms and increase local flexibility on how funds can be spent. We look forward to working with you to refine the bill as it proceeds through the legislative process.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at jkennedy@rcrcnet.org or (916) 447-4806.

Sincerely,



JOHN KENNEDY
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez, Chair, Assembly Emergency Management Committee
Members of the Assembly Emergency Management Committee
Mike Dayton, Chief Consultant, Assembly Emergency Management Committee
Brent Finkel, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus



April 13, 2021

The Honorable Chris Holden
Chair, Assembly Utilities & Energy Committee
State Capitol, Room 5132
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 418 (Valladares) – SUPPORT
As Amended April 8, 2021**

Dear Assembly Member Holden:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am writing to express our continued support for Assembly Bill 418, authored by Assembly Member Suzette Martinez Valladares, regarding community power resiliency. RCRC is an association of thirty-seven rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each member county.

RCRC member counties have suffered the lion's share of destruction caused by catastrophic wildfires over the past decade and experienced most of the state's Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events. We do not underestimate the risk of wildfire danger and appreciate the role that expertly-informed, tailored PSPS events play in avoiding catastrophic wildfires; however, PSPS events can have debilitating consequences in many of our communities, where local governments are often least able to shoulder the additional costs and lost revenues.

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For the above reasons, RCRC respectfully requests your 'Aye' vote when this measure is heard before your Committee. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at jkennedy@rcrcnet.org or (916) 447-4806.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "K" and "y".

JOHN KENNEDY
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Suzette Martinez Valladares, Member of the State Assembly
Members of the Assembly Utilities & Energy Committee
Laura Shybut, Chief Consultant, Assembly Utilities & Energy Committee
Greg Melkonian, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus



June 16, 2021

The Honorable Bill Dodd
Chair, Senate Governmental Organization Committee
State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 418 (Valladares) – SUPPORT
As Amended May 24, 2021**

Dear Senator Dodd:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am writing to express our continued support for Assembly Bill 418, authored by Assembly Member Suzette Martinez Valladares, regarding community power resiliency. RCRC is an association of thirty-seven rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each member county.

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For the above reasons, RCRC respectfully requests your 'Aye' vote when this measure is heard before your Committee. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at jkennedy@rcrcnet.org or (916) 447-4806.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

JOHN KENNEDY
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Suzette Martinez Valladares, Member of the State Assembly
Members of the Senate Governmental Organization Committee
Consultant, Senate Governmental Organization Committee
Richard Paul, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus



September 8, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 418 (Valladares) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 418. AB 418, authored by Assembly Member Suzette Martinez Valladares, regarding community power resiliency. RCRC is an association of thirty-seven rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each member county.

RCRC member counties have suffered the lion's share of destruction caused by catastrophic wildfires over the past decade and experienced most of the state's Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events. We do not underestimate the risk of wildfire danger and appreciate the role that expertly-informed, tailored PSPS events play in avoiding catastrophic wildfires; however, PSPS events can have debilitating consequences in many of our communities, where local governments are often least able to shoulder the additional costs and lost revenues.

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for community energy resiliency extends beyond the PSPS realm, as power outages can have a wide variety of causes, including natural disasters, fires, and grid issues.

Again, RCRC respectfully requests your signature on AB 418.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Mary-Ann Warmerdam". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

MARY-ANN WARMERDAM
Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs