

May 10, 2018

Assembly Member Chris Holden  
State Capitol, Room 5132  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 813 (Holden) Multistate Regional Transmission Organization – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Holden:

The League of Women Voters of California supports AB 813 which would provide significant cost savings to California citizens and facilitate the integration of renewable electricity into the western grid.

Building toward an integrated power grid will enable us to draw **cleaner, cost-effective electricity** from across the region and send it where it is needed. This approach will increase efficiency and reduce costs for electricity, a significant improvement over our current system, which is fragmented with 38 different grid operators.

The governance for the regional system outlined in AB 813 provides for an **independent board** of multi-state representatives with no connections to utilities or any other potential conflicts of interest. The proposed system ensures transparency and access for stakeholder participation and provides a venue for state agencies to provide advice and input.

**Renewable use will grow.** In an organized regional market, the lowest cost resources are the first used to supply. With a larger geographic area, more renewable resources will be available at any one time. Renewables, because they have no fuel cost, are often the lowest cost so are the first dispatched generation resources. This will put downward pressure on coal and other fossil fuels.

**Consumers will save money.** A 2016 study by CAISO, found that a transition to a regional grid operator with an independent board will save the state's electricity customers \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion annually by 2030.

**California will maintain control of its own emissions policies.** To monitor progress the regional organization must maintain a transparent system for tracking emissions of greenhouse gases resulting from resources dispatched to serve load.

We thank you for your leadership on this issue. We support passage of AB 813.

Sincerely,

Helen Hutchison  
President, League of Women Voters of California

cc: Senator Bob Wieckowski, co-author