

Attachment B

ROY LEE

First District

LAURA CAPPS

Second District, Chair

JOAN HARTMANN

Third District

BOB NELSON

Fourth District, Vice-Chair

STEVE LAVAGNINO

Fifth District



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

July 1, 2025

The Honorable John Laird
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 8720
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **SB 283 (Laird): Energy Storage Systems**
As amended 5/01/25 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Laird:

On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for your Senate Bill 283, regarding energy storage systems. SB 283 requires the California Fire Marshal to review and consider incorporating into the next update of the California Building Standards Code the most recently published edition of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 855 standards regarding battery energy storage systems (BESS). SB 283 also requires a BESS developer to certify that the system was designed in accordance with the most recently published edition of NFPA 855 or the California Building Standards Code. Finally, SB 823 requires the BESS developer to meet and confer with the local fire department responsible for fire suppression before submitting an application for that project. The County believes that it is imperative for both energy reliability and resilience, as well as public safety, to ensure that energy storage systems are both a component of the state's electricity system and are designed and constructed with the most current safety standards and technology available.

BESS present a complicated permitting issue, as they are newer technologies that are less familiar to permitting agencies. Additionally, the protocols for responding to system failures and thermal runaways are very different than traditional firefighting and emergency response. These issues, combined with the fact that several systems have experienced high-visibility failures in the last few years, have made local governments more cautious in siting and permitting projects to appropriately safeguard nearby residents and property owners. Guidance from the California Building Standards Code would provide much-needed assistance to local agencies and provide comfort to communities that may host such projects.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support SB 283. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions about our position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jean Kinney Hurst", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate

cc: County of Santa Barbara Legislative Delegation