

Attachment A

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

County Administration Building
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Telephone: (805) 568-2190
www.countyofsb.org

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

July 1, 2025

The Honorable Rhodesia Ransom, Chair
Assembly Emergency Management Committee
1021 O Street, Room 8720
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **AB 1285 (Committee on Emergency Management): State Fire Marshal: lithium-ion battery facilities: guidance**
As corrected 3/03/25 – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Ransom:

On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for your Committee's Assembly Bill 1285, regarding the safe management of lithium-ion battery facilities. AB 1285 would require the State Fire Marshal to develop fire prevention, response, and recovery measures for such facilities. 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 State Fire Marshal 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 AB 1285. 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", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Emergency Management Committee
County of Santa Barbara Legislative Delegation