



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS®**

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KENNETH W. COOPER
International President

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International
Secretary-Treasurer

September 14, 2023

VIA U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL

Dr. Julian Gold
Board Chair
Clean Power Alliance
801 S Grand Ave, Suite 400
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Mr. Ted Bardacke
Chief Executive Officer
Clean Power Alliance
801 S Grand Ave, Suite 400
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Mr. Robert Parkhurst
Chair, Energy Committee
Clean Power Alliance
801 S Grand Ave, Suite 400
Los Angeles, CA 90017

**Re: IBEW Support for the SunZia Clean Energy Transmission and
Wind Infrastructure Project**

Dear Dr. Gold, Mr. Parkhurst, and Mr. Bardacke:

On behalf of the more than 820,000 active and retired members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I write in full support of the SunZia Clean Energy Transmission and Wind Infrastructure Project. SunZia's approximately \$8 billion investment in New Mexico and Arizona has been described as the largest single-phase renewable energy project in the United States.

The project will create 3,500 megawatts of new wind generation — enough power for 3 million customers — with a 550-mile long, primarily bi-directional 525 kV high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line between the two states. It will also create more than 2,000 construction jobs during peak construction and is anticipated to employ a significant number of IBEW members of Albuquerque, New Mexico Local Union 611 and Phoenix, Arizona Local Union 769.

The IBEW represents approximately 420,000 active members working in the construction industry. These highly skilled and trained IBEW members play a vital role in the future economic prosperity of their communities. IBEW local unions like Local Unions 611 and 769 are the leaders in the nation in recruiting and training the highly skilled workforce necessary for responsible economic development supported by good, union jobs.



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Thanks to partnerships with the IBEW and other labor unions, the SunZia project represents a significant, positive and responsible economic development opportunity for Arizona and New Mexico. Good, union jobs create an economic ripple effect, as union members' income contributes directly or indirectly to state and local payroll taxes, increased spending in local businesses and local construction vendors, investments in job training, increased local charitable contributions, increased tourism, and more. The project is estimated to provide \$20.5 billion in total economic benefit and \$1.3 billion in direct payments to local governments, communities, schools and private landowners.

Building and maintaining a highly qualified workforce is extremely important to build the renewable energy infrastructure of the future. I greatly appreciate the IBEW's collaboration with Pattern Energy and its contractor(s) to ensure that a highly qualified labor workforce is employed on SunZia, and the IBEW looks forward to contributing to the success of the project.

IBEW members across the West appreciate the high labor standards that Clean Power Alliance has promoted on its projects, with more than 20 project labor agreements in effect on new clean energy infrastructure completed or under construction for CPA, as well as the financial contributions they have provided to the IBEW training centers in Los Angeles and Ventura counties. SunZia will continue this legacy of high-road job creation that you have supported.

For these reasons, I ask that you approve the Power Purchase Agreement for the SunZia project, which will help meet the challenges being faced as a nation to build a resilient grid and meet carbon reduction goals for future generations.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth W. Cooper
International President

KWC:mea

