



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Contact

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Advocates welcome Gov. Newsom's engagement on energy regionalization, highlight urgent need for action this year to protect California's energy security

SACRAMENTO — The [Lights on California](#) coalition highlighted the urgent need for action this year on California regional energy policy following Governor Gavin Newsom's announcement that his Administration would engage in ongoing discussions about the state's participation in a Western Regional Transmission Organization (RTO).

Governor Newsom [spoke publicly on the issue](#) yesterday, saying: "I look forward to our continued work with the Legislature, California stakeholders and our partners in other states to advance this important effort on enhanced regional collaboration that will benefit all the West."

RTOs are independent, non-profit organizations that operate multi-state electricity grids, oversee regional wholesale electricity markets, and provide reliability planning for their region. The West is one of the only regions in the U.S. without one — though an Arkansas-based RTO, the Southwest Power Pool, is [taking steps to isolate California while moving into the region](#). Since California imports a third of its energy, this significant threat to our state demands a quick response from our leaders.

Lights on California coalition members responded with the statements below.

Alex Jackson, Director, American Clean Power-California:

"Clean energy providers are encouraged by the Governor's commitment to engage on regional energy issues—and we welcome the Administration's leadership as California considers the best way to work collaboratively with other states to plan for and produce all of the clean power we need."

"With summer heat waves around the corner and California continuing to rely on our neighbors for almost a third of our power, the Governor's involvement sends a strong signal that California is ready to lead the effort to work together, across state lines, to keep the lights on."

"The clock is ticking on this issue, especially as power providers from other regions evaluate competing proposals that could leave our state's grid increasingly isolated. We urge the Governor and Legislature to move quickly—in 2023—to reach an agreement, and we are prepared to offer any assistance we can to develop solutions that enhance reliability, maintain energy affordability, and help the state achieve its 100% clean energy goals."

Tim McRae, Senior Vice President for Sustainable Growth, Silicon Valley Leadership Group:

"While we work to decarbonize California's economy, the demands on our grid will only go up — especially as extreme weather events become more frequent and intense. As a supporter of the Lights On California coalition, SVLG is encouraged by Governor Newsom's commitment to engage with the

Legislature to ensure California can maintain access to the solar, wind, and other renewables that we depend on to keep the lights on and to continue to drive our State's innovation economy."

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Lights On California is a coalition of clean energy, business, and environmental advocates committed to expanding clean energy adoption through regional cooperation across the West. More information is available at: LightsOnCA.org. Follow us on Twitter at [@LightsonCalif](https://twitter.com/LightsonCalif).