

Introduced by Senator Vargas

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member V. Manuel Pérez)

August 16, 2011

Senate Joint Resolution No. 13—Relative to cross-border transmission lines.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SJR 13, as introduced, Vargas. Public utilities: cross-border transmission lines.

This measure would call upon the Secretary of the United States Department of Energy to reject Sempra Energy’s application to construct the Energía Sierra Juárez cross-border transmission line between Mexico and California in order to preserve jobs in California, promote energy independence, and uphold California’s labor and environmental laws.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Cross-border transmission lines between California
2 and Mexico would facilitate the exportation of American jobs by
3 enabling energy companies to import electricity into the United
4 States instead of building energy projects here, where the energy
5 is being used, and thereby move our economy in the wrong
6 direction at a time when we should be putting Americans back to
7 work; and

8 WHEREAS, The Obama administration has emphasized the
9 need for our nation to reduce our dependence on imported energy
10 because our nation’s economic future and security depend on
11 developing energy infrastructure within our own borders; and

12 WHEREAS, A core component of President Obama’s electoral
13 campaign was his commitment to a green energy economy, which

1 would usher in a period of environmental advancement and
2 economic prosperity; and

3 WHEREAS, Constructing cross-border transmission lines would
4 undermine the President’s vision by enabling energy companies
5 to deliver electricity to the United States from foreign facilities
6 not built to American labor or environmental standards; and

7 WHEREAS, If we are to reclaim America’s middle class, our
8 nation must eliminate opportunities for corporations to export jobs,
9 exploit workers, or raid natural resources; now, therefore be it

10 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
11 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature, to preserve jobs in
12 California, promote energy independence, and uphold California’s
13 exemplary labor and environmental laws, calls upon the Secretary
14 of the United States Department of Energy to reject Sempra
15 Energy’s application for a Presidential permit to construct the
16 Energía Sierra Juárez cross-border transmission line between
17 Mexico and San Diego County, California; and be it further

18 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
19 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
20 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
21 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
22 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
23 States, to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural
24 Resources, to the Chair of the House Energy and Commerce
25 Committee, to the Secretary of the United States Department of
26 Labor, and to the Secretary of the United States Department of
27 Energy.