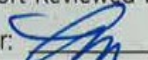


Agenda Report Reviewed by:  
City Manager: 

**CITY OF SEBASTOPOL  
CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA ITEM**

Meeting: May 5, 2020  
To: Honorable Councilmembers  
From: Mayor Slayter  
Subject: Letter of Support to Representatives: Support of Clean Energy in the Recovery Stimulus Package - COVID-19 Pandemic  
Recommendation: That the City Council Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Letter of Support  
Funding: Currently Budgeted: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  N/A  
Net General Fund Cost:  
Amount:

Account Code/Costs authorized in City Approved Budget (if applicable) Verified Electronically A.K. (verified by Administrative Services Department)

**INTRODUCTION:**

This item is to request that the City Council Consider the Request to Send a Letter of Support for Clean Energy in the Recovery Stimulus Package for the COVID 19 Pandemic.

**BACKGROUND:**

With the rapid spread of COVID-19 across the nation leading to a historic health and economic crisis, the renewable energy industry at the heart of this transition is suffering from the same uncertainty and impending job losses as many other sectors.

**DISCUSSION:**

Congressman Huffman is organizing a letter to Speaker Pelosi from members of the CA delegation in support of clean energy in a recovery package to the COVID-19 crisis. The letter requests immediate relief to California clean energy workers and businesses by making clean energy tax credits temporarily refundable, extending safe harbor provisions and construction deadlines, and delaying the scheduled ramp down of incentives for clean energy projects. The letter also urges Congress to help the industry recover by extending tax incentives for clean energy, offshore wind, energy storage, electric vehicles and energy efficiency.

It is important that we take proactive measures to mitigate these disruptions to the renewable energy industry during the pandemic. If Congress does not support the maintenance and growth of the clean energy industry in a future stimulus or economic recovery package, the renewable industry could face job losses of up to 50 percent in some subsectors. Such losses would hurt workers and their families and set the United States back even further in the fight against climate change. It is now up to Congress to invest in the future of clean energy and climate action by investing in the renewable energy industry in any forthcoming stimulus packages. Workers in this industry deserve it, and Congress would be helping to build a sustainable economy while investing in a clean future for the United States.

I encourage the council to support this letter.

**Public Notice:**

This item was noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to scheduled meeting date.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the recommended action tonight.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that the City Council Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Letter of Support.

**Attachments:**

Proposed Letter

**City Council**

Mayor Patrick Slayter  
Vice Mayor Una Glass  
Michael Carnacchi  
Sarah Glade Gurney  
Neysa Hinton



**Agenda Item Number 4**

**City Manager**  
Larry McLaughlin  
lmclaughlin@cityofsebastopol.org  
**Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC**  
Mary Gourley  
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**City of Sebastopol**

May 6, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

As you consider policy priorities for inclusion in our country's continued response to the COVID-19 public health crisis and its economic impacts, we ask that you include support for clean energy and transportation workers and businesses, which are important to California's economy and public health.

There are over half a million jobs in the clean energy industry across California, with more than half of those jobs coming from small businesses. But these industries are being greatly harmed by project cancellations, demand destruction, delivery delays, employee absences, supply chain disruptions, financing challenges, and postponements due to the COVID-19 crisis. Every part of the clean energy and transportation sector is being hit, from sales and manufacturing of electric vehicles to stoppages of energy efficiency retrofits and construction, to delays and cancellations of clean energy and energy storage projects. For example, the solar industry is projecting to lose as many as 120,000 jobs - almost half their workforce - and many of those jobs are in California.

As Congress looks to recovery, we urge you to keep renewable projects from failing and save California clean energy jobs by providing direct payments and refundability of tax incentives, extending the regulatory and statutory safe harbor provisions and commence construction deadlines, and delaying the scheduled ramp down of incentives for clean energy projects. These measures will ensure that companies can address some urgent problems, keep projects moving, and prevent job losses and a dramatic contraction of the clean energy industry, which affects our constituents in California.

But Congress can do more than just stop the bleeding - we need to make sure that our clean energy and transportation industry, an engine of job growth heading into the crisis, recovers and continues to grow. Clean energy and electric vehicles reduce air pollution and improve public health, especially respiratory health. As you know, California has an aggressive goal of 100% clean energy by 2045 and these tax incentives are crucial to meeting that goal and meeting it affordably. Science tells us that absent near-term aggressive deployment of clean energy and transportation around the country, we will not meet our commitments to address climate change, further exacerbating another global crisis that also threatens to devastate economies and human lives.

Congress can also help the industry recover from the COVID-19 crisis by further extending the production tax credit and investment tax credit for clean energy technologies for the long term, expanding eligibility to stand-alone energy storage projects, lifting the cap on the tax credit for electric vehicles, and extending and modifying critical residential and commercial tax incentives for energy efficiency. Extending and expanding these tax incentives will help provide the industry the near- and longer-term certainty they need to continue to grow, creating thousands more jobs and significant public health benefits, while cutting emissions fueling climate change.

Please provide relief to California workers by making clean energy tax credits temporarily refundable, delaying the ramp down of existing credits, and extending safe harbor provisions and commence construction deadlines. These efforts will help prevent project cancelations, keeping thousands of Californians employed. We also ask that you extend long-term tax incentives for clean energy, offshore wind, energy storage, electric vehicles, and energy efficiency as part of any infrastructure or recovery package. Extending these tax incentives will provide the certainty the industry needs for continued growth, creating thousands more jobs while ensuring enormous benefits for public health and the climate.

Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership during this time.

Sincerely,

Patrick Slayter  
Mayor  
City of Sebastopol

Copies Furnished:   Sebastopol City Council  
                              Senate Leader McConnell  
                              Senator Harris  
                              Congressman Huffman  
                              Congressman Thompson