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California Efficiency + Demand Management Council Oral Testimony to the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee Hearing Regarding AB 2667 April 6, 2022

Good afternoon, Chair Garcia, and members of the Committee. My name is Greg Wikler, and I am the Executive Director of the California Efficiency + Demand Management Council. The Council, established in 2009, is a statewide trade association of more than 70 non-utility companies that provide energy efficiency, demand response and distributed energy resource products and services throughout California. I'm here in support of Assembly Bill 2667.

The creation of the incentive program in AB 2667 will help unlock distributed energy resources for all customers. These DERs include technologies to enable demand management which, when called upon during the August 2020 blackouts, saved more than 1GW of power, averting further disaster.

Currently, up-front purchasing costs and complicated state application processes can be significant deterrents to customer adoption – and grid benefits. This bill will help enable wider subscription of these resources by creating an incentive program and allowing retail providers to apply for funding on behalf of customers. This could result in the right incentives to expand the state's capabilities to stabilize the grid, avert rolling blackouts, and help us unlock the last and most difficult phase of meeting our State's clean energy goals through clean, flexible power.

For these reasons, I encourage your "aye" vote.