

Elliot E. Mainzer
President & Chief Executive Officer

Transmitted Electronically

September 13, 2024

Honorable Joe Manchin
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20150

Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: S. 4753 – The Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso,

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) appreciates your shared leadership on S. 4753 – The Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024. The CAISO runs one of the world's largest and most dynamic power grids, managing the flow of electricity across 26,000 circuit miles of high-voltage power lines to utilities across most of California and a small part of Nevada. Within its footprint, it oversees transmission planning to maximize efficiency and reliability of a growing number of energy resources. Additionally, the CAISO operates competitive wholesale energy markets across the western United States that promote lower costs for consumers.

The CAISO proactively and regularly plans to meet the challenges of tomorrow and welcomes the opportunity to discuss how to build the grid of the future. As an example, the CAISO's most recent annual transmission plan approved transmission to account for resource needs of 85,000 MW by 2035. The CAISO's July 2024 20-Year Transmission Outlook provides a macro analysis of California's future transmission network to meet the state's energy goals and highlights the challenges associated with building major pieces of infrastructure. Given the unique geographic and connectivity features of the western United States, the CAISO encourages a planning framework that accounts for differences among regions, and that emphasizes outcomes over process. Partnership with neighboring balancing authorities and planning regions has been key to maximizing the benefits of the grid. Building on these existing partnerships to deploy infrastructure solutions and coordinate balancing of supply and demand across the western United States is essential to ensure electric reliability and affordability.

As an independent system operator, the CAISO customarily provides technical guidance on legislation without taking a formal position. In this instance, we are encouraged that S. 4753 addresses many permitting and planning hurdles currently hindering transmission development nationwide. We look forward to offering technical guidance as Congressional deliberations continue.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters.

Sincerely,



Elliot Mainzer
President and Chief Executive Officer