

# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Dawn Addis  
State Assembly, State Capitol  
1021 O Street, Suite 4120  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0030

**RE: Assembly Bill 303: Battery Energy Safety & Accountability Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Addis:

On behalf of the Shasta County Board of Supervisors, we express our strong support for Assembly Bill 303, which would improve safety standards and restore local oversight for large-scale battery energy storage system (BESS) projects, allowing local jurisdictions to restrict such facilities from being built in potentially dangerous areas while still encouraging the development of new energy systems and businesses.

Allowing the California Energy Commission (CEC) the expanded power to override local authority via its Opt-In Certification Program could not only result in BESS facilities being constructed in unsafe areas, but also has the potential for protracted legal challenges such as those faced by the CEC due to their overriding of local decisions concerning large-scale wind energy facilities, similarly provided in Assembly Bill 205 (2021-2022). This assumption of authority silences the local voices who best understand the needs and concerns of their areas and creates unnecessary risk for the individuals who live in those communities.

Rural counties like Shasta already face rising insurance costs and potential insurance cancellations due to increased fire hazard severity in our region. Additionally, Shasta County contains multiple earthquake hazard zones, regulated floodplains, and large areas of agricultural zoning, all of which are considered environmentally sensitive sites by AB 303. By allowing BESS facilities to be built near these sites, our communities would face increased insurance costs and risk of wildfire, decreased property values, less new construction, reduced housing availability in areas already confronting housing shortages, and potentially severe environmental and public health impacts that could have generational consequences.

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Page 2 of 2

For these reasons, Shasta County strongly supports AB 303 and urges its swift passage. We appreciate your leadership on this important issue and look forward to a return to common-sense laws that retain local jurisdictional control over decisions with long-term impact on their communities.

Sincerely,

Kevin W. Crye, Chair  
Board of Supervisors  
County of Shasta

cc: Members, Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee  
Members, Assembly Local Government Committee  
Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
California State Association of Counties  
Rural County Representatives of California  
Shaw, Yoder, Antwih, and Lange