



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**

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**GOVERNMENTAL & LEGISLATIVE
AFFAIRS**

GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

385 North Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0110
(909) 387-4821

June 6, 2013

The Honorable Paul A. Gosar
United States House of Representatives
504 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Gosar:

On behalf of the County of San Bernardino, we are pleased to express support for H.R. 596, the Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act of 2013. This important legislation would extend lease and royalty revenue from renewable energy projects to states and counties where the projects are located.

San Bernardino County is the largest county in the contiguous United States with more than 80 percent of its land under federal ownership. A majority of this federal land is in the Mojave Desert, which is an excellent solar and wind resource. Currently, there are more than \$3 billion in solar energy facilities under construction in our County, and more solar and wind projects are in the pipeline.

The establishment of a formula to distribute 25 percent of royalty and rental revenues to the state and 25 percent to the host county will ensure that taxpayers get a fair and equitable return for the commercial use of their public lands. The funding distribution formulate is also necessary to provide adequate funding for local public services affected by renewable energy development, including public safety and infrastructure.

Should you have any questions, please contact the County's Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs, Josh Candelaria, at (909) 387-4821.

Sincerely,

JANICE RUTHERFORD
Board of Supervisors Chair
Second District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

JAMES RAMOS
Board of Supervisors
Third District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

cc: San Bernardino County Congressional Delegation