



Hispanics In Energy



April 13, 2021

OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED - SB 467

Dear Natural Resources Committee Members,

My name is Mike Flores and I am writing this letter in opposition, unless amended, to SB 467 on behalf of Hispanics in Energy (HIE) and our president, Jose Perez.

Let me state from the outset that HIE supports efforts to fight climate change and supports clean energy development. Providing a healthy future for our families is a core value for our community and we support practical and well thought efforts for clean energy development.

However, SB 467 is a faulty and poorly thought out bill that will hit the Hispanic community where it hurts the most - loss of jobs. Hispanics make up 30% of the oil and gas workforce, both direct and indirect. If this bill moves on to the Senate floor and then passes, thousands will lose well paying jobs with no back up plan. Not only will this bill create job loss, it has no plan for transitioning the workforce to new careers - these workers are left blowing in the wind.

We believe this idea needs much more thought and analysis before such a radical approach is adopted without concern for the Hispanic employees who will lose their outstanding paying jobs. As of yet, there is no evidence that Hispanics will benefit economically and prosper from the emerging clean energy economy.

Western States Petroleum Association's statement on SB467 puts it best; *"The bill is so broad and ambiguous that the results of its passage would lead to a total production ban in California. That means, hundreds of thousands of more Californians without jobs, the state facing billions in takings claims, and our people being completely reliant on petroleum produced in other parts of the world."*

We ask therefore, at a minimum, to create a Commission, to study the issue, to identify practical ways to retrain, maintain the salaries and benefits of these workers, and prepare for a seamless transition into the near future by helping not hurting our community.

The largest ethnic group in California, WANTS A SEAT AT THE TABLE.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Flores', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mike Flores
Policy Advisor
Hispanics in Energy