



## Heber Public Utility District

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April 18, 2024

The Honorable Steven Bradford  
1021 O Street, Suite 3350  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **Re: Senate Bill 1309 (Padilla): Lithium Battery Production Council**

Dear Senator Padilla,

On behalf of Heber Public Utility District, I am pleased to offer our strong support of SB 1309, which would direct the California Energy Commission (CEC), in consultation with other state agencies, including the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (Go-Biz) and the California Workforce Development Board, to establish a Lithium Battery Production Council to conduct an economic analysis on workforce development needs, infrastructure needs, sewage and wastewater treatment, and housing needs for lithium battery production.

Heber Public Utility District provides water, wastewater, parks and trash services to the unincorporated community of Heber.

In 2023, a new report by Lawrence Berkeley National Lab estimated that there was more lithium than previously estimated, enough to support over 375 million batteries for electric vehicles – more than the total number of vehicles currently on U.S. roads.<sup>1</sup> Yet the region surrounding the state's vast lithium deposits has critical infrastructure gaps including a lack of bridges and roads and lack of communication and transportation infrastructure. As California seeks to power the future by producing lithium in a more sustainable and environmentally safer way than nearly anywhere else in the world, it is critical the state has a comprehensive strategy that secures California's global leadership in lithium battery manufacturing by preparing the region to meet the demands of sustaining a global industry.

For these reasons, SB 1309 (Padilla) would further Heber Public Utility District's goal of prioritizing infrastructure needs for sewage and wastewater treatment and we are proud to support SB 1309 (Padilla)/and encourage your "aye" vote when it is heard in your committee.

Best regards,

Delfino Matus, Heber Public Utility District President

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<sup>1</sup> California, State of. "New Report Highlights the Promise of Lithium Valley." California Governor, November 29, 2023.  
<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2023/11/28/new-report-highlights-the-promise-of-lithium-valley/>.