



September 23, 2025

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 527 (Papan) – Request for Veto

Dear Governor Newsom:

Associated Builders and Contractors of California (ABC CA) is a statewide organization representing working Californians in carpentry, construction, construction craft laborer, electrical, low voltage, painting, plumbing, pipefitting, and sheet metal who are building commercial, industrial and affordable housing projects, and we write to respectfully request a veto on AB 527 (Papan), a bill that establishes an exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for geothermal exploratory projects, if a county is the lead agency.

This bill has an admirable goal of increasing the state's use of renewable energy by planning for and increasing the state's use of geothermal power. However, statewide policies related to the creation and expansion of "green" jobs and resources also necessitates the expansion of "green skills" in the workforce. Many men and women in the oil and gas industry have the necessary experience that can serve them well in a **safe** transition to geothermal jobs. However, AB 527 prioritizes "skilled and trained" workers when there is a large group of men and women that could safely do this work but do not have that classification.

While there might be a need for a skilled and trained workforce for some of the new opportunities generated by the expansion of geothermal jobs in the state, there is a **whole generation of workers that will be left behind**. This is simply because even though they have the expertise and the safety statistics to back them as a qualified workforce, they are not considered "skilled and trained". Your Master Plan for Career Education and "career passports" have demonstrated your clear understanding of the value of life and work experience

regardless of a formal and traditional degree. We hope that you will continue to support these workers and not allow them to be left behind.

For these reasons, we must respectfully request your veto on AB 527.

Thank you for your consideration and continued leadership on behalf of California's workers and employers. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Gutierrez", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Greg Gutierrez
Chair of the Board