

Calif. renewable energy debate heating up

By Jeremy B. White, Sacramento Bee

A political fight over California's renewable energy industry is playing out in the corridors of power, but it deals with something closer to home: your rooftop.

Capitol policymakers are advancing an ambitious proposal to have renewable sources generate half of the state's electricity by 2030, up from the 33 percent benchmark already in law.

The full force of California's political establishment backs the goal: Gov. Jerry Brown pitched the idea, Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León, D-Los Angeles, has promoted it aggressively, and bills enshrining the new standard passed both the Senate and the Assembly with strong Democratic support.

The question now seems less whether the new goal will be enacted than how utilities will get there. With the clean energy industry anticipating an opportunity for more business, California's rooftop solar firms are fighting to be included – and meeting resistance from other industry players.

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