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### **Wilk recognizes City of Lancaster's alternative energy initiative efforts**

Sacramento - Senator Scott Wilk, R-Antelope Valley recognized the City of Lancaster on the Senate Floor today for its innovative efforts to implement alternative energy initiatives and projects. In 2017 Wilk authored Senate Resolution 62 (SR 62) designating the city as an "alternative energy research center of excellence."

"Lancaster has been leading the nation with creative alternative energy strategies. It was the first city in the nation to facilitate the development of affordable solar residential communities as well as mandate minimum solar power requirements for all new residential community construction," said Wilk. "They remain on the cutting edge of alternative energy initiatives and I am so pleased to recognize their efforts."

Councilmember Raj Malhi accepted the resolution on behalf of the City.

"Lancaster is proud to be at the leading edge of alternative energy innovation in California. As the home of BYD's North American headquarters, our residents are building the best electric buses in the world; thousands of which will be in service in California" commented Councilmember Raj Malhi. "The successes of the AV are in great measure due to the active and effective leadership of Senator Wilk. On behalf of Antelope Valley residents we thank Sen. Wilk for this great designation."

The city has also worked closely with the Antelope Valley Transit Authority to ensure that north Los Angeles County will soon have the first 100 percent electric bus fleet in the nation. Opened in a former recreational vehicle plant, the Lancaster factory rolled out its first electric bus in 2014. BYD officials have since unveiled several varieties of trucks they intend to manufacture in an expansion project expected to open this month.

Nearly 700 people work for BYD in Lancaster, and company officials believe employment could top 1,000 by the end of 2018.

"Lancaster is helping other municipalities interested in exploring alternative energy through its creation of the California Choice Energy Authority. This forward thinking approach will provide a modern, competitive environment that will attract new businesses to our region as well as promote a clean energy future for our community," said Wilk.

**Photo of Councilmember Raj Malhi accepting the resolution can be found [here](#).**

**Photo with City Manager, Mark Bozigian, Councilmember Malhi, Senator Wilk and Deputy City Manager Jason Caudle can be found [here](#).**

*Senator Wilk represents the 21<sup>st</sup> Senate District which includes the Antelope, Santa Clarita and Victor valleys. Learn more about Scott by visiting his [website](#) and be sure to connect with him on social media.*

