



Our mission

Deliver rapid greenhouse gas reductions at scale, starting in California.

Board of Directors

Efren Carrillo, President
Larry Robinson, Vice President
Jim McGreen, Secretary
Jonathan Weintraub, CPA, Treasurer
Jane Bender
Venise Curry, MD
Tim Holmes, P.E.
Terea Macomber, MBA
Carl Mears, PhD
Aaron Schreiber-Stainthorp
Susan Thomas

Executive Staff

Ellie Cohen, Chief Executive Officer
Ann Hancock, Chief Strategist
Barry Vesser, Chief Operations Officer

Strategic Advisors

Peter Barnes, Co-founder,
Working Assets
Dave Brennan, City Manager (Retired)
Rick Brown, TerraVerde Renewable Partners
Jeff Byron, CA Energy Commissioner (Retired)
Ernie Carpenter, County Supervisor (Retired)
Kimberly Clement, Attorney
Connie Coddling, Developer
Joe Como, Former Director, CA Office of
Ratepayer Advocates
Andy Ferguson, Communications
John Garn, Business Consultant
Elizabeth C. Herron, PhD, Writer
Hunter Lovins, President,
Natural Capitalism Solutions
Alan Strachan, Developer
Jessica Wentz, Esquire
Shirlee Zane, County Supervisor

Science & Technical Advisors

Fred Euphrat, PhD
Dorothy Freidel, PhD
Lorenzo Kristov, PhD
Edward C. Myers, M.S.Ch.E.
Edwin Orrett, P.E.
John Rosenblum, PhD
Zeno Swijtink, PhD
Greg Thomson, Green Solutions
& Technologies
Alexandra von Meier, PhD
Mathis Wackernagel, PhD
Ken Wells, E.I.T.
Ai-Chu Wu, PhD

Contact

www.theclimatecenter.org
P.O. Box 3785, Santa Rosa, CA 95402
707-525-1665

May 15, 2020

Senator Henry Stern
State Capitol, Room 5080
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: SB 1258 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Stern,

On behalf of The Climate Center (Center) and its network of supporters, I write in support of Senate Bill 1258.

The Center is a California nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2001 in Sonoma County with a mission to deliver rapid greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions at scale, starting in California. The Center represents thousands of supporters and program collaborators throughout California. Our combined participants and/or subscribers among our several programs and newsletters comprise nearly 10,000 individuals.

SB 1258 would enact the California Climate Technology and Infrastructure Financing Act to require the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank ([IBank](#)) to administer a Climate Catalyst Revolving Fund in support of a climate catalyst loan program to provide financial assistance to eligible climate catalyst projects.

The Climate Center strongly supports this idea. In 2019, the Climate Center initiated the [Advanced Community Energy](#) Initiative with a goal of transitioning California's electricity system to a decentralized, integrated grid architecture providing all communities with a clean, affordable, resilient, equitable, and safe electricity system.

The Climate Center believes SB 1258 will create an appropriate forward-looking funding framework to support measurably effective climate catalyst projects that reduce net emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs), create jobs in the State, and achieve other goals as outlined in the bill.


SB 1258 defines "climate catalyst project" as any improvement, technology, service or measure or combination thereof, that avoids or reduces GHG emissions. This includes but is not limited to projects that advance energy efficiency, clean energy infrastructure, innovative energy technology, small scale renewable distributed energy generation, system efficiency, sustainable agriculture, low-carbon transportation, demand response, land-based GHG sequestration, and microgrid energy resiliency.

These are all good categories, and we are particularly pleased to see the inclusion of microgrid energy resiliency in the definition. The Center has

identified community clean microgrids as a top priority for addressing GHG reductions and community resilience in the face of multiple challenges.

As climate-related disruptions grow more frequent and severe, we need effective strategies to achieve decarbonization, resilience, social equity and security at the local level. One common basis for achieving these goals is to create local electric systems — carbon-free, safe, resilient and accessible to all — in every community throughout California. SB. 1258 will help accelerate this transition and achieve state policy goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ECohen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ellie Cohen, Chief Executive Officer
The Climate Center