



**Our mission**

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

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**Contact**

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

April 16, 2020

Honorable Bill Dodd

Chair, Senate Governmental Organization Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 584  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: SUPPORT – SB 1215 (Stern)**

Dear Senator Dodd,

On behalf of The Climate Center, I write in support of Senate Bill 1215 (Stern). The Climate Center is a California nonprofit 501(c)(3) founded in 2001 with a mission to deliver rapid greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions at scale, starting in California. The Climate Center represents thousands of supporters and program collaborators throughout the state. Our combined participants and/or subscribers among our several programs and newsletters comprise nearly 10,000 individuals.

The Climate Center supports SB 1215 as it is in alignment with our efforts to advance localized, clean, safe, and resilient energy systems, including microgrids, in California.

Relevant to the Governmental Organization Committee, this bill would establish the Local Government De-energization Event Resiliency Program, to be administered by the Office of Emergency Services (OES), to support state and local government efforts that enhance public safety, protect vulnerable populations, and improve resiliency in response to de-energization events. It would also establish the Local Government De-energization Event Resiliency Fund that would appropriate the moneys for purposes defined in the bill.

SB 1215 is complementary to SB 1314 in that it would allocate moneys from the Fund to local governments, joint powers authorities, Community Choice Agencies (CCAs), and special districts for various purposes relating to microgrid projects. The bill would also require the OES to offer planning grants and technical assistance to local governments to assist in identifying optimal deployment sites for microgrid projects within their jurisdictions.

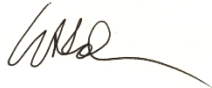
The bill would also require the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), in consultation with the OES, to collect and make publicly accessible a statewide database of critical facilities and infrastructure, and related critical electrical circuits, and identify with respect to each whether it serves a high fire risk district or vulnerable electricity distribution service area.

Lastly, existing law requires the commission, in consultation with the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), to establish resource adequacy (RA) requirements for electrical corporations, CCAs, and electric service providers. SB 1215 would require the CPUC and CAISO to develop a

methodology to account for the RA value of distributed storage no later than March 31, 2021. Storage is a far superior method of RA than standby generation. Unlike standby generation resources that have no off-peak day to day value, storage can be used on a regular basis to enhance variable renewables and manage load.

When this bill comes to your committee, we urge a yes vote. We look forward to working with you, other members, and the bill author to enact this legislation as a significant part of the overall effort to ensure clean, safe, reliable, and affordable electricity service for every California community.

Sincerely,



Ellie Cohen  
Chief Executive Officer

cc:

Committee Members:

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