



Our mission

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

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March 11, 2021

Senator Ben Hueso
Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
State Capitol, Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 345 (Becker) - Support

Dear Chair Hueso:

The Climate Center is writing to express support for SB 345. The Climate Center is a climate and energy policy nonprofit which works for rapid greenhouse gas reductions, starting in California. The Climate Center's Climate-Safe California campaign articulates the need for and outlines a path toward accelerating state climate targets and achieving urgently needed emissions reductions.

A key pillar of the Climate-Safe California campaign is to secure policies that support local governments as they prepare climate emergency response plans and make their communities more resilient. SB 345 takes a critical step forward in this direction. As California faces ever-increasing adverse grid events due to climate-related disasters, it is critical that the state make every effort to deploy the innovative clean energy technologies that will allow communities to adapt to a world in which stable power from the grid can no longer be taken for granted. Technologies like solar with storage and microgrids can ensure that communities, and their critical facilities, do not go dark in the event of wildfire, public safety power shutoffs, or natural disasters, such as earthquakes. While the state has enacted some policies to reduce barriers to project development, those programs have not resulted in significant deployments of these technologies in our state's most disadvantaged communities.

In order to remedy this inequity, the CEC's SB 350 barriers study recommended that the state's energy agencies "establish common definition of nonenergy benefits, develop standards to measure them, and attempt to determine consistent values for use in all energy programs." SB 345 takes action on this recommendation and provides the direction needed for California energy agencies to begin the process of defining and quantifying nonenergy benefits. The net effect of adding these policies into our existing energy framework will be to accelerate and better integrate clean energy into California's economy, while ensuring that all ratepayers, including those in disadvantaged communities, see benefits from state energy programs and projects.

For these reasons, The Climate Center supports SB 345 and respectfully requests your "AYE" vote.

Sincerely,

Ellie M. Cohen, Chief Executive Officer

CC: Members, Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee