



April 8, 2021

Assembly Member Cottie Petrie-Norris, Chair
Accountability and Administrative Review
1020 N Street, Room 357
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1365 (Bonta) Buy Clean Concrete – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Petrie-Norris:

We are proud to support AB 1365 (Bonta), which adds concrete to the state’s Buy Clean program to leverage California’s purchasing power in deploying low carbon technologies and best practices across the cement-concrete supply chain.

Concrete is vital to building roads, bridges, and other essential infrastructure, but the manufacture of cement (the “glue” in concrete) is also a major source of greenhouse gas emissions and local air pollution. Cement production and concrete use is expected to grow by as much as 40 percent in California by 2040. To avoid a corresponding spike in emissions, the state will need to advance policies to both reduce the carbon intensity of cement production and grow market demand for lower carbon concrete.

In 2017, the Buy Clean California Act created a framework to account for the embodied emissions associated with various building materials and set thresholds to limit their climate impact. While concrete was initially excluded, accounting tools such as Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) – akin to a nutrition label for the environmental impacts of various building materials – are now widely used in the concrete industry and required by some state and local agencies, lower carbon blended cements are gaining acceptance, and leading California cities and campuses have updated their specifications to allow concrete producers to optimize for performance and achieve significant reductions.

To build on this progress, AB 1365 creates a three-year runway to incorporate concrete into California’s Buy Clean program. It requires concrete producers bidding on a state public works project to disclose the carbon footprint of each mix, creates incentives to drive climate

competition for the cleanest products, and over time sets minimum standards to align state purchasing with our climate goals.

We respectfully ask for your AYE vote on this important measure.

Sincerely,

Alex Jackson,
Senior Attorney, Western Energy
Natural Resources Defense Council

Laura Berland-Shane
Vice President, Government Affairs
Blue Planet

Ellie Cohen
CEO
The Climate Center

Bill Magavern
Policy Director
Coalition for Clean Air

Andy Wunder
Western States Advocate
E2, Environmental Entrepreneurs

Daniel Barad
Campaign Representative
Sierra Club CA

Cc: Assembly Member Rob Bonta