



April 16, 2021

Senator Henry Stern
Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
State Capitol, Room 5406
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 582 (Stern) - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Stern:

We write to express our support for your SB 582, which will establish the first net negative emissions target in state law.

The climate crisis is the existential threat of our time and one that is very immediate. At a press conference held during the height of the 2020 record-breaking wildfire season, Governor Newsom observed that “this is a damn climate emergency... Our goals are inadequate to the reality we’re experiencing.” Numerous studies conducted in the years since the release of the 2018 United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) back the Governor’s assertion and have found that “[w]e have underestimated the risks of unleashing irreversible changes... The next decade is our window¹.” In a newly released paper², Professor Dan Kammen, the Chair of UC Berkeley’s Energy and Resources Group, agrees that “long an innovator in this arena, California is falling behind in its climate leadership and would benefit economically and ecologically, and in terms of social justice, by establishing more aggressive totals that enable a carbon-negative economy.”

With the Biden administration making climate a centerpiece of its policy agenda and preparing to push for a \$2 trillion infrastructure package that has a strong focus on clean technologies and climate justice, it is time for California to step up and reclaim its leadership in this arena. SB 582 does exactly that by establishing the first-ever statutory goal for the state to achieve net-negative emissions with a target date of 2035 and by requiring a Just Resilience Plan by 2022.

These urgently needed goals draw from a proud lineage of ambitious environmental policy measures, from the establishment of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to combat air pollution and the adoption of the Renewable Portfolio Standard, to the passage of SB 100 in 2018.

¹ Lenton, Rockstrom, Gaffney, Rahmstorf, Richardson, Steffen, Schyellnhuber. Nature, Nov 27 2019
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-03595-0>

² Kammen et al. Accelerating the timeline for climate action in California. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2103.07801>

SB 582's net negative emissions goal cannot come soon enough as post-IPCC 1.5C report studies have determined that nine of fifteen global climate tipping points have been activated³, we will pass the 1.5C threshold of dangerous warming within the next decade⁴, and California is already in the early stages of a severe multi-decade drought⁵.

The goals set forth in SB 582 will act as a catalyst for taking the actions needed to find a better future. Beyond re-establishing California as the preeminent leader in the fight against climate change and the race to achieve net negative emissions, SB 582 will send a strong market signal to the technology developers who are working on the next generation of advancements that will be needed to turn those goals into reality. From renewable energy generation and storage to zero-emission vehicles to leveraging natural and working lands for carbon sequestration, California will need a robust suite of strategies, tactics, and technologies to achieve its goals. SB 582 makes clear to the developers of those technologies, and the capital markets that back them, that California is ready to double down on the market for clean technologies and provide them the assurances they need to continue to make these critical investments. In doing so, SB 582 also blazes a policy trail that can be emulated and followed by leaders across the world.

In addition, SB 582 would require the Office of Policy and Research in collaboration with the Energy Commission, State Building Standards Commission, Infrastructure and Development Bank, the State Treasurer, Labor & Workforce Development Agency, and Department of Technology, to develop a Just Resilience Plan, by June 1, 2022, to drive resilience investments in the most vulnerable communities in California.

With limited time remaining to avert a full-on climate catastrophe, California must take courageous and bold action and pass SB 582 into law. Doing so will not only re-establish the state as the international climate leader but will also galvanize the private sector to redouble its efforts to develop the technologies and make the required investments needed to avoid the worst outcomes of climate change.

We applaud you for putting forward such a bold and ambitious bill and, for the reasons above, stand in proud support of SB 582 and respectfully request your "AYE" vote.

Sincerely,

³ Lenton, Rockstrom, Gaffney, Rahmstorf, Richardson, Steffen, Schyellnhuber. Nature, Nov 27, 2019 <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-03595-0>

⁴ Xu, Y. et al. [Global warming will happen faster than we think](#). Nature, vol. 564 | 30-32

⁵ The western U.S. is locked in the grips of the first human-caused megadrought, study finds <https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2020/04/16/southwest-megadrought-climate-change/>

Ellie M. Cohen
Chief Executive Officer
The Climate Center

Catherine Dodd PhD, RN FAAN
Policy Director
California Alliance of Nurses for Healthy
Environments

Melissa Romero
Legislative Affairs Manager
California League of Conservation Voters

Alex Jackson
Senior Attorney
Natural Resources Defense Council

Cecilia V. Estolano
CEO
Better World Group

Linda Rudolph, MD, MPH
Program Director
Center for Climate Change and Health

Michael Chiacos
Director of Energy and Climate Programs
Community Environmental Council

Russell Hancock
President and CEO
Joint Venture Silicon Valley

Samuel Molina
California State Director
Mi Familia Vota

Richard Schorske
Executive Director
ZNE Alliance | EV Alliance

Robert M. Gould, MD
President
San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social
Responsibility

Bill Allayaud
Calif Director of Government Affairs
Environmental Working Group

Eric Veium, CEM, CEP
Chair
SLO Climate Coalition

Daniel Chandler
Steering Committee Member
350 Humboldt

Chris Benz
Napa Climate Now

Doug Linney
Executive Director
ZEV 2030

Tina Gallier
Board Member
350 Sacramento

Zoe Siegel
Director of Climate Resilience
Greenbelt Alliance

Alan Weiner
Chapter Lead
350 Conejo San Fernando Valley

Kathy Dervin
Co-Chair, Legislative Committee
350 Bay Area Action

Jim Lindburg
Legislative Consultant
Friends Committee on Legislation of
California

Ashley McClure
Climate Health Now

Liz Beall
Executive Director
Climate First: Replacing Oil and Gas

Andy Hattala
Co-Chair
The Climate Reality Project, Los Angeles
Chapter

Marilyn Price
Co-Chair
Sustainable Mill Valley

Janet Cox
Legislation Director
350 Silicon Valley

Nancy Black
Co-Founder
Mercury Press International

Gabby Trejo
Executive Director
Sacramento Area Congregations Together

Ron Whitehurst
Coordinating Team Member
350 Ventura County Climate Hub

Jan Dietrick
Co-Leader
Citizens' Climate Lobby, Ventura Chapter

Jack Eidt
Co-Founder
SoCal 350 Climate Action

Jennifer Tanner
Co-Founder
Indivisible California Green Team

Katharine Nyhus
Indivisible South Bay LA

Matthew Vasilakis
Co-Director of Policy
Climate Action Campaign

Michael Leon Guererro
Executive Director
Labor Network for Sustainability

Suzanne Hume
Educational Director and Founder
CleanEarth4Kids

CC: Members, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee