



Our mission

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

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April 5, 2021

The Honorable Benjamin Allen
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality
State Capitol, Room 4076
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 596 (Becker) – Support

Dear Senator Allen:

I am writing on behalf of The Climate Center and our thousands of supporters to support SB 596 (Becker). SB 596 requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to establish a strategy to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the concrete and cement sector by 40% from 2019 levels by 2030 and to achieve carbon neutrality as soon as possible, but no later than 2045. Per the latest science and rapidly worsening climate reality, we strongly suggest that these goals be accelerated.

Cement is a primary ingredient and the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production and use of concrete, the most widely-used building material in the world. California has eight cement plants, which are an important source of industrial sector greenhouse gas emissions. Many in the industry are already planning for achieving carbon neutrality. By establishing a framework to decarbonize these plants and take the sector to carbon neutral, the concrete and cement sector can lead the way demonstrating effective pathways to achieving the state's climate goals. The same efforts to decarbonize these plants will reduce air pollution and improve public health in local communities, while supporting high-quality jobs and economic growth.

One effective policy to do so may be a low-carbon product standard for concrete or cement, similar to the state's Low-Carbon Fuel Standard. SB 596 would direct CARB to consider such a policy, but not require it if another approach can achieve similar outcomes more cost-effectively.

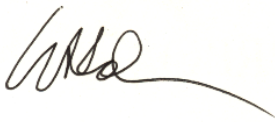
A new scientific perspective¹ piece by Daniel Kammen et al provides a survey of the recent science and suggests that California must accelerate its goal to

¹ [1] Daniel M Kammen, Teenie Matlock, Manuel Pastor, David Pellow, Veerabhadran Ramanathan, Tom Steyer, Leah Stokes, and Feliz Ventura, **California Must and Can Accelerate Commitments to Global Climate Leadership**, Prepublication, for submission to Environmental Research Letters, March 2021.
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2103.07801>

achieve net-negative emissions to 2030 to secure a safe future. In light of this recommendation, it is clear that the targets established in this bill for the concrete and cement sector should also be accelerated, and that 2045 is too late.

The concrete and cement sector can lead the way to achieving net-negative greenhouse gas emissions in California, while demonstrating the broad environmental, health, and economic benefits associated with doing so. We support the direction of SB 596 (Becker), respectfully requesting that you strengthen the bill to reflect recent climate science and vote in favor of the bill.

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

cc: Senator Josh Becker, via Ken.Branson@sen.ca.gov