

Support SB27

March 15, 2021

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Senate Environmental Quality Committee Members:

[Senator Benjamin Allen \(Chair\)](#)

[Senator Patricia C. Bates \(Vice Chair\)](#)

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[Senator Nancy Skinner](#)

[Senator Henry I. Stern](#)

[Senator Bob Wieckowski](#)

Good morning, Chair Allen and members of the committee.

My name is Ellie Cohen, CEO of The Climate Center. I am honored to testify in support of SB 27, which will set urgently needed state goals for carbon sequestration on natural and working lands, and help catalyze public and private investment.

The Climate Center is a policy non profit working for rapid greenhouse gas reductions at scale through our Climate-Safe California campaign, which aims to accelerate state climate policy timelines and achieve net-negative emissions by 2030.

- UN scientists concluded in 2018 that to prevent dangerous impacts of climate change we have to cut emissions in half by 2030 and remove emissions already put in the atmosphere from human activity.
- New studies since then show that we will pass the 1.5C threshold of dangerous warming within the next decade, much earlier than expected, requiring accelerated emissions reductions as well as accelerated investments in sequestration.
- A growing number of scientific studies show that natural and working lands can sequester significant amounts of additional carbon with the added benefits of helping our state be more resilient to drought, wildfire and sea level rise while increasing groundwater supplies, air quality, biodiversity and food security.
- There are also new technologies emerging for directly capturing carbon from the atmosphere. We support the testing of these technologies while ensuring they do not negatively impact surrounding communities and the environment.
- **We also support** the state partnering with private entities to scale up investments in California-based carbon sequestration on natural and working lands, ensuring that these programs are as accessible to as many producers as possible and are not used as an emissions offset.

**With rapidly worsening climate change impacts and California in the early stages of a severe multi-decade drought, The Climate Center respectfully requests your support of SB 27. Thank you.**