**TEMPLATE – LOCAL GOVERNMENT LETTER TO**

**GOVERNOR NEWSOM, STATE SENATORS, AND STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBERS**

**V. May 24, 2021**

(local government letterhead)

(date)

To:

* Governor Gavin Newsom, **1303 10th Street, Suite 1173, Sacramento, CA 95814**
* California Senator(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, (address)
* California Assembly member(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, (address)

From: (name, title)

Subject: Climate-Safe California

Dear Gov. Newsom, Senator(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and Assemblymember(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

We write to inform you that on (date) the (name of jurisdiction) endorsed Climate-Safe California, a bold campaign to address the climate crisis ([www.theclimatecenter.org/climatesafeca/](http://www.theclimatecenter.org/climatesafeca/)) Our endorsement resolution attached.) **We urge you to support state policies that accelerate climate action in our state and allocate needed funds for local government to enact the policies rapidly and at scale.**

The goal of Climate-Safe California is for the state to achieve net-negative emissions by 2030, meaning that the state removes more climate pollution from the atmosphere than it emits. The 2030 goal is 15 years ahead of the state’s current goal of 2045, which is far too late to avoid the 1.5 C threshold of dangerous warming set by climate scientists.

Climate change is hitting harder and faster than scientists thought just a few years ago when California adopted its most significant climate policies. If the status quo continues, we will pass the dangerous 1.5C threshold of global warming as early as 2027 – nearly two decades earlier than scientists initially projected. Unprecedented climate extremes, including severe multi-decadal drought and devastating wildfires with toxic smoke storms, will only get worse, costing more lives and health, property loss, and dollars. The longer we delay taking action, the more costly adaptation to climate change impacts becomes.

The climate crisis requires unprecedented government action now, and California, historically a global climate leader, has fallen behind. We are now surpassed by the EU, the UK under conservative leader Boris Johnson, President Biden and even Rhode Island. As the world’s fifth largest economy, California must take the lead on climate once again.

Climate-Safe California aims for the state to enact a suite of policies in four areas:

1. Phase out fossil fuels
2. Sequester carbon on natural and working lands using regenerative practices
3. Invest in community resilience for all Californians
4. Invest in climate action and leverage more in private investments.

Climate-Safe California is guided by three principles:

1. Align with the most current science
2. Ensure a just transition for workers, their families, and their communities dependent on fossil fuel industries
3. Ensure lower income communities and communities of color are no longer disproportionately harmed by our fossil fuel economy and have equitable access to climate solutions.

Well-designed state policy will enable local governments like ours to accelerate climate action. For example, the state legislature passed two pieces of legislation, AB 117 in 2002 and SB 790 in 2011, that made Community Choice possible. Because of this state enabling legislation, local governments have established 24 Community Choice agencies in California that now serve more than 11 million Californians with electricity that is 80-90 per cent greenhouse gas free. This approach to spurring speed and scale greenhouse gas emission reductions warrants replication by state policymakers.

**Thank you for accelerating state climate policy commensurate with the speed and scale of the crisis.** We welcome an opportunity to collaborate with you on accelerating climate action. We respectfully request thatyou consider **joining us and the more** **than 1,200 elected leaders, businesses, scientists, organizations, local governments, and community members** **in endorsing Climate-Safe California.**

We welcome any questions, comments, or suggestions you have.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

(signed)

Enc: Resolution re Climate-Safe California