January 14, 2022

Senator Scott Wiener
1021 O Street, Suite 6630
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 260 (Wiener) The Climate Corporate Accountability Act - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Wiener,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our support for your bill Senate Bill 260, the Climate Corporate Accountability Act, sponsored by the California Environmental Voters (formerly CLCV), Carbon Accountable and Sunrise Bay Area. SB 260 will require the most profitable US-based corporations with annual gross revenues of $1 billion USD or greater that do business in California to publicly disclose their full greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions footprint in a manner easily understandable and accessible to the people of California. Once reported, the Air Resources Board (CARB) will report on the emissions reductions that would be required by the largest corporations in order to avoid global temperature increases over 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Many communities in California are on the front lines of the climate crisis, facing the human impacts head-on. In 2020 alone, wildfires burned over 4 million acres and the state struggled with the impacts of historic drought, loss of snowpack, continuing sea level rise, deadly heat waves, diminishing regional agricultural returns, exacerbated air and water pollution, and related climate impacts. And while all of California is impacted, we also know that climate impacts fall disproportionately on low-income communities and on Black, Indigenous and People of Color. Yet, the very corporations who are most responsible for the pollution which has caused the climate crisis ask individuals to make changes in their own lives to solve the problem, rather than own the responsibility to change their own practices.

This crisis is the direct result of the cumulative and growing emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) into our atmosphere and the private sector continues to play an outsized role in contributing to the crisis. For example, we know that 100 active fossil fuel producers are linked to 71% of global industrial GHG emissions since 1988. But the full picture of corporate climate emissions remains fragmented, incomplete and unverified. When we do get corporate disclosures they are often limited to a corporation’s operations and other direct emissions, but supply chain emissions are now estimated to be 11.4 times more than a company’s emissions from their direct operations on average. Without specific and comprehensive data detailing the sources and levels of corporate pollution, and whether emissions are increasing or decreasing, we will remain unable to effectively regulate, reduce, and restrict these sources of climate pollution that are threatening California and its residents.

By requiring reporting of both direct emissions from these corporations, and any emissions produced from their supply chains and other indirect emissions SB 260 creates the data infrastructure to drive down corporate carbon emissions. This mandate of comprehensive climate pollution transparency would be the first in the nation and would establish a public right
to know which companies are polluting our environmental commons, how much they are
emitting, and if they are decreasing - or increasing - their climate emissions, offering a
transparent and public way of verifying corporate claims of climate leadership.

For these reasons, the undersigned organizations strongly support SB 260 and urge the Senate
to pass this critical measure. This bill is a crucial step to pursuing real emissions reductions from
the corporate sector and ensuring corporations cannot get away with greenwashing while they
profit off the destruction of our planet.

Sincerely,

Melissa Romero
Legislative Affairs Manager
California Environmental Voters
(Formerly CLCV) (Sponsor)

Catherine Atkin
Director
Carbon Accountable (Sponsor)

Gershon Bialer
Policy Working Group Team Lead
Sunrise Movement Bay Area (Sponsor)

Barbara Sattler
Board Member
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Juan Altamirano
Associate Director of Policy
Audubon California

Susan Stephenson
Executive Director
California Interfaith Power & Light

Andria Ventura
Legislative and Policy Director
Clean Water Action

Ellie Cohen
Chief Executive Officer
The Climate Center

Teron McGrew and Harriet Harvey-Horn
Co-Chairs
Climate Reality San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Bill Magavern
Policy Director
Coalition for Clean Air

Irene Kao
Executive Director
Courage California

Pamela Flick
California Program Director
Defenders of Wildlife

Todd Weber
President
Elders Climate Action, NorCal chapter

Richard Burke
President
Elders Climate Action, SoCal chapter

Katelyn Roedner Sutter
Manager, US Climate
Environmental Defense Fund

Jim Lindburg
Legislative Consultant
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Michael Wellborn  
President  
_Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks_

Chloe Waterman  
Program Manager  
_Friends of the Earth U.S._

Zoe Siegel  
Director of Climate Resilience  
_Greenbelt Alliance_

Victoria Rome  
Director, California Government Affairs  
_Natural Resources Defense Council_

David Krueger  
President  
_Northern California Recycling Association_

David Lewis  
Executive Director  
_Save The Bay_

Gabby Trejo  
Executive Director  
_Sacramento Area Congregations Together_

Ben Eichenberg  
Staff Attorney  
_San Francisco Baykeeper_

Lauren Cullum  
Policy Advocate  
_Sierra Club California_

Kevin Ma  
Policy Lead, State Advocacy Team  
_Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action_

Jay Ziegler  
Executive Director of External Affairs and Policy  
_The Nature Conservancy_

Monica Cooper  
Steering Committee Lead  
_UC Green New Deal Coalition_

Erin Rodriquez  
CA Policy Advocate  
_Union of Concerned Scientists_

Ildiko Polony  
Founder  
_Wildfires to Wildflowers_

MaryRuth Gross  
Legislative Co-Chair  
_350 Bay Area Action_

William N. Brieger  
Chair of Legislative Team  
_350 Sacramento_

Nicole Kemeny  
President  
_350 Silicon Valley_

Elizabeth Chopp  
Legislative Committee Co-chair  
_350 San Diego_