



Our mission

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

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January 5, 2022

Senator Mike McGuire,
Chair, Senate Governance & Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 407
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 379 (Wiener) - SUPPORT

Dear Chair McGuire:

On behalf of The Climate Center and its thousands of statewide supporters, I write to express our strong support for Senate Bill 379, which will provide resources to local governments to support implementation of instant online permitting for solar and storage installations.

The Climate Center is a California nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2001 with a mission to deliver rapid greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions at scale, starting in California. We are long-time supporters of solar power.

Before any homeowner can install solar, they need to apply for a permit from their local permitting authority. SB 379 will provide resources to establish an online system that automates the review of standard residential solar systems to ensure they are up to code.

A number of cities in California have already developed easy online permitting, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory has created a tool, [SolarAPP+](#), that is free to all jurisdictions for this purpose. SB 379 will cut the red tape that deters would-be solar adopters, reducing costs and increasing the speed of installing solar throughout the state.

The rapid growth of solar resulting from SB 379 will bring substantial benefits to Californians. Solar generates greenhouse gas free electricity and lowers energy bills. Paired with storage, solar can keep the lights on and medical devices operating during planned and unplanned grid disruptions.

This important legislation will help our state accelerate its transition to clean energy and meet our climate emissions targets, which must be accelerated to be in alignment with the most recent climate science. We urge you to support SB 379 when it is heard in your committee.

Sincerely,

Ellie M. Cohen
Chief Executive Officer
The Climate Center