



Our mission

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

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March 28, 2022

Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell
Chair, Assembly Education Committee
1020 N Street, Room 159
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 1939 (L. Rivas) – SUPPORT

Dear Chair O'Donnell and Committee Members:

On behalf of The Climate Center and its thousands of statewide supporters, I write to express our strong support for Assembly Bill 1939, a bill that will make climate science coursework a high school graduation requirement so that our future leaders can gain the knowledge they need to create a climate-safe future.

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. Our strategic goal is to enact by 2025 the bold policies required by science to put California on the path to net-negative emissions by 2030, catalyzing the nation and the world into accelerated climate action.

Education is the first step in effectively addressing the climate crisis. Recognizing this, Italy became a world leader by mandating every student, in every grade, receive classroom education on climate science. Mexico quickly followed and in the U.S. New Jersey became the first state to require schools to do the same. Unfortunately, California is falling behind, but this bill will get the state on track.

Students who are being educated about the causes and consequences of climate change will be better prepared to work for a better future, but not all children are being provided that opportunity to learn. AB 1939 prioritizes education about the global climate crisis by requiring it in grades 1-6 and making it a graduation requirement for grades 7-12. This measure sends a clear message that the State stands behind climate science and education. As students head for college or into the workforce, AB 1939 will empower students to help find climate change solutions in everything they do.

We urge you to support AB 1939 when it arrives in your committee.

Sincerely,

Ellie M. Cohen, Chief Executive Officer
The Climate Center