



Our mission

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

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April 11, 2022

Assemblymember Jim Wood
Capitol Office, 1020 N Street, Room 390
P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0002

RE: AB 2076 (L. Rivas) Extreme Heat – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Wood 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 2076, which will establish the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program, coordinating the activities of the state and incentivize the development of local comprehensive heat action plans to protect communities from the dangers of extreme heat.

The Climate Center is a California nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2001 with a mission to achieve rapid greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions at scale, starting in California. Our primary focus is on mitigation of emissions and natural sequestration of legacy carbon dioxide emissions, and it is also necessary to address the consequences that the state's residents are already experiencing.

Record-breaking heat waves have left local governments struggling to protect residents from these life-threatening weather events, particularly those in lower income communities that are most vulnerable and ill-equipped to cope. As one of the gravest hazards resulting from the climate crisis, extreme heat causes more emergency room visits and deaths annually than any other weather-related disaster in the nation. These events are projected to increase. The California Energy Commission anticipates that by 2050, the state will experience an average of 40 to 55 extreme heat days per year.

Currently California lacks focus, accountability, cross-agency collaboration, and coordination on this matter. There is no centrally responsible authority to provide technical assistance, strategic funding, or coordination to state and regional agencies or local governments to address extreme heat. This important legislation will vastly improve the ability to respond effectively when these inevitable episodes occur. We urge you to support AB 2076 when it is heard in your committee.

Sincerely,

Ellie M. Cohen
Chief Executive Officer, The Climate Center