



Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments



March 9, 2022

Senator Ben Hueso
Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee
1021 Street, Suite 7340
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 833 (Dodd)—SUPPORT As Amended, March 7, 2022

Dear Chair Hueso:

We are writing to express our support for SB 833, the Community Energy Resilience Act.

Threats to the electricity grid are increasing in frequency, severity and impact, making it a policy imperative for the state to invest in clean, local energy resilience. Power outages have cost the California economy billions, and in response, homeowners, businesses, and utilities have reflexively invested in fossil fuel generators. Distributed clean energy is a better way to provide local energy resilience.

SB 833 directs the California Energy Commission to implement a technical assistance and grant program that supports local communities in creating community energy resilience plans. Upon receiving grant funds, local communities would partner with civic organizations, utilities, businesses and other stakeholders to identify areas critical for maintaining community health and well-being and develop plans to help ensure that these facilities can operate continuously via local clean energy resources. Energy resilience is an inherently local issue, with approval for siting of new distributed energy projects necessarily jurisdictional to local governments, most of which are currently ill-equipped to integrate energy resilience into local planning. Local political consensus as reflected in energy resilience plans will accelerate use of federal, state, and private funds to develop local energy resilience infrastructure.

SB 833 prioritizes allocation of community energy resilience planning funds to vulnerable communities. This prioritization is essential as vulnerable communities suffer disproportionately from air pollution and high rates of respiratory disease, problems which are being exacerbated by installation of new diesel generation.

With the enactment of SB 833, California will take an important step towards creating a more decentralized electricity system which is clean, affordable, reliable, equitable and safe. For these reasons, we urge you to vote “Aye” on SB 833. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Chief Executive Officer
The Climate Center

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Campaign Representative
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CC: Members, Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee
Senator Bill Dodd