



Our mission

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

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April 1, 2022

Senator Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
1021 O St., Suite 7620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 852 (Dodd) – Climate Resilience Districts – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Caballero:

On behalf of The Climate Center and its thousands of statewide supporters, I write to express our support for SB 852. This bill would permit the establishment of local climate resilience districts to raise funds for planning and implementing projects and programs to address climate change through mitigation and adaptation.

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.

The deleterious effects of climate change are becoming more evident every day. It is “code red” for humanity as UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres lamented last August. And per the latest United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change science report, “any further delay in concerted...global action will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a livable and sustainable future for all.”

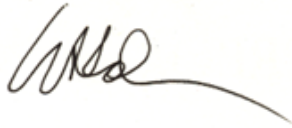
California and the west are in the midst of the worst multi-decadal drought in 1200 years of records. The increasing frequency and severity of extremes in drought, heat, wildfire, flooding and sea level rise are all manifestations of the rapidly worsening impacts of climate change. California has taken a number of steps at the state level to respond to the climate crisis including AB 32 (Nuñez) in 2006 to set up a cap-and-trade system to reduce GHG emissions and SB 32 (Pavley) in 2016 to require that GHG emissions are reduced by 40% from 1990 levels by 2030 as well as many other pieces of legislation that seek to address climate change in some manner. The 2021-22 state budget includes a \$15 billion package to address wildfire, forest, drought and water resilience over three years.

SB 852 fills a significant gap in the framework of tackling climate change. While important steps have been taken and resources allocated at the state level, it is local communities and governments that are on the front lines of meeting the challenge. Although some local governments have acted aggressively to meet this challenge, there is no systematic, sustained, and predictable source of funding and other resources at the local level to take on the planning and implementation of projects and programs needed to combat the effects and impacts of climate change.

SB 852 would permit cities, counties, or special districts, either alone or in combination, to establish climate resilience districts. The districts would be able to raise revenue through tax increment financing and voter-approved supplemental property taxes, property benefit assessments, or fees. The districts would have the authority to plan and implement projects and programs to address climate change either through mitigation or adaptation. This bill will give communities and regions the means to focus resources on the most urgent aspects of climate change as determined locally. The bill will also create the ability to channel local, state, federal, and private funds in a coordinated manner within a jurisdiction or across jurisdictional boundaries to have the greatest and most effective impact.

Thank you for your leadership in creating the ability for communities and governments to finance, plan for, and implement the projects and programs needed most at the local level to address the climate crisis.

When SB 852 is heard in your committee, we urge your support.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'EMC', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Sincerely,

Ellie M. Cohen
Chief Executive Officer
The Climate Center

cc: Senator Bill Dodd
Members, Senate Finance and Governance Committee