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Santa Cruz Chapter



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March 7th, 2023

Senator Ben Allen
Senate Environmental Quality Committee, Chair
1021 O Street, Suite 3230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 253 (Wiener) The Climate Corporate Accountability Act - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Allen & Committee Members,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our support for Senate Bill 253, the Climate Corporate Accountability Act, sponsored by the California Environmental Voters (formerly CLCV), Carbon Accountable, Greenlining Institute, and Sunrise Bay Area. SB 253 will require the most profitable US-based corporations with annual gross revenues of \$1 billion USD or greater that do business in California to publicly disclose their full greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions footprint in a manner easily understandable and accessible to the people of California.

Many communities in California are on the front lines of the climate crisis, facing the human impacts head-on. In 2020 alone, wildfires burned over 4 million acres and the state struggled with the impacts of historic drought, loss of snowpack, continuing sea level rise, deadly heat waves, diminishing regional agricultural returns, exacerbated air and water pollution, and related climate impacts. And while all of California is impacted, we also know that climate impacts fall disproportionately on low-income communities and on Black, Indigenous and People of Color. Yet, the very corporations who are most responsible for the pollution which has caused the climate crisis ask individuals to make changes in their own lives to solve the problem, rather than own the responsibility to change their own practices.

This crisis is the direct result of the cumulative and growing emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) into our atmosphere and the private sector continues to play an outsized role in contributing to the crisis. For example, we know that 100 active fossil fuel producers are linked to 71% of global industrial GHG emissions since 1988. But the full picture of corporate climate emissions remains fragmented, incomplete and unverified. When we do get corporate

disclosures, they are often limited to a corporation's operations and other direct emissions, but supply chain emissions are now estimated to be 11.4 times more than a company's emissions from their direct operations on average. Without specific and comprehensive data detailing the sources and levels of corporate pollution, and whether emissions are increasing or decreasing, we will remain unable to effectively regulate, reduce, and restrict these sources of climate pollution that are threatening California and its residents.

By requiring reporting of both direct emissions from these corporations, and any emissions produced from their supply chains and other indirect emissions SB 253 creates the data infrastructure to drive down corporate carbon emissions. This mandate of comprehensive climate pollution transparency would be the first in the nation and would establish a public right to know which companies are polluting our environmental commons, how much they are emitting, and if they are decreasing - or increasing - their climate emissions, offering a transparent and public way of verifying corporate claims of climate leadership.

For these reasons, the undersigned organizations strongly support SB 253 and urge the Senate Environmental Quality Committee to pass this critical measure. This bill is a crucial step to pursuing real emissions reductions from the corporate sector and ensuring corporations cannot get away with greenwashing while they profit off the destruction of our planet.

Sincerely,

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