

Our Mission

We're working to rapidly reduce climate pollution at scale, starting in California.

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Contact

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March 9, 2023

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
Chair Assembly Committee on Education
Legislative Office Building
1020 N. Street, Room 159
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 285 (L. Rivas): Climate Change Education—SUPPORT

Dear Chair Muratsuchi:

The Climate Center is pleased to support AB 285, the Climate Change Education Bill, to prioritize science-based climate education by making it a course requirement for grades 1-6 and 7-12.

As unprecedented climate change continues to affect California with wildfire, extreme heat, flooding, snow and drought, there is a growing call from California's youth to implement significant policy and societal changes to mitigate this social, economic, and environmental crisis.

AB 285 would empower our future leaders to gain the science-based knowledge they need to create a sustainable future. Students who are being educated about climate change and climate justice are better prepared to work for a better future. But not all children are being provided that opportunity to learn since the State's attempt to teach climate science remains optional. Until climate change becomes a State educational priority, there is no guarantee that all students will learn about how to meaningfully address the crisis. As students head for college or into the workforce, AB 285 will prepare students to find climate change solutions in everything they do.

The Climate Center, founded in 2001, is focused on equitably reducing climate pollution at the speed and scale necessary to secure a climate-safe future. We catalyze change through an ambitious and achievable vision, developing science-based research to drive policy, and mobilizing a powerful coalition of climate advocates across sectors. We strongly believe that science-based education at all age levels and in all segments of society is a fundamental requirement to achieving success in reaching the State's climate goals.

The Climate Center is proud to join this growing coalition of youth groups, environmental groups, and education groups that support this measure. Climate change is undoubtedly threatening our future and we

must take advantage of every opportunity to meaningfully address it.

Please add The Climate Center to the list of supporters of AB 285. If we can assist you further, please contact Woody Hastings at woody@theclimatecenter.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EC', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ellie Cohen
Chief Executive Officer
The Climate Center

CC: Assembly Education Committee members