



Our Mission

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

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Contact

theclimatecenter.org
1275 4th Street #191
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
707-525-1665

Jun 20, 2023

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
Chair, Utilities and Energy Committee
California State Assembly
1020 N Street, Room 408A
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jim Patterson
Vice Chair, Utilities and Energy Committee
1020 N Street, Room 408A
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 48 (Becker) - Building Performance Standards for Energy Efficiency and GHG Reduction - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Garcia and Vice Chair Patterson,

The Climate Center supports Senate Bill 48, which aims to establish building performance standards for energy efficiency and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction in large buildings. As an organization dedicated to advancing climate solutions, we believe that this bill presents a crucial opportunity to address the urgent challenges posed by climate change and to promote equity in our communities.

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. Our strategic goal is to enact the bold policies required by science to put California on the path to net-negative emissions by 2030, catalyzing the nation and the world into accelerated climate action.

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time, and it requires immediate and comprehensive action. California has long been a leader in environmental initiatives, and Senate Bill 48 aligns with our state's ambitious climate goals and

commitment to a sustainable future. By creating building performance standards, this legislation will play a significant role in reducing energy consumption, decreasing GHG emissions, and fostering a more resilient and environmentally responsible built environment.

The building sector represents a substantial portion of California's energy use and carbon emissions. Implementing performance standards for large buildings will not only help curb energy waste and reduce GHG emissions associated with electricity generation but also promote the adoption of energy-efficient technologies and practices. These measures will contribute to achieving our state's climate targets, including those outlined in the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) and the more recent Senate Bill 100, which sets a goal of 100% clean electricity by 2045.

Furthermore, Senate Bill 48 recognizes the importance of equity and seeks to ensure that the necessary investments in building improvements are made without exacerbating disparities or burdening disadvantaged communities. This focus on equity is crucial, as vulnerable communities often bear a disproportionate burden of the negative impacts of climate change and energy costs. By prioritizing equity and inclusivity, this bill will help create a just transition to a sustainable economy, benefitting all Californians.

We applaud the Legislature's intent to pass subsequent legislation to develop building performance standards, as it will allow for thorough stakeholder engagement, technical expertise, and the incorporation of best practices. This collaborative approach will ensure that the standards are well-informed, practical, and effectively address the energy and environmental challenges faced by large buildings across the state.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to witnessing your leadership in advancing sustainable and equitable solutions for our state.

Sincerely,

Nicole Rivera
Government Relations Director
The Climate Center