





San Joaquin Valley



Democratic Club



VOTE SOLAR



The Honorable Senator Becker
1021 O Street, Suite 7250
Sacramento, CA 95814

June 19, 2023

RE: Support for SB 49- Solar on parking lots and highways

Dear Senator Becker,

We applaud and support your leadership in tackling the climate crisis and expanding clean energy in underutilized spaces like parking lots and along highways across the state with Senate Bill 49.

The state of California is experiencing the consequences of an energy system of the past, powered by dirty and dangerous sources that accelerate global warming while polluting the air we breathe and the communities we call home. We have the solutions to transition from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy to achieve a more livable climate and a healthier environment. To make this transition possible, we must redouble our efforts to build more clean energy capacity, like solar with battery storage, throughout the state as quickly as possible.

California needs to build an unprecedented amount of new clean energy capacity, [at least 6 gigawatts each year](#) according to the California Energy Commission, to meet its goal of 100% clean energy by 2045. The state needs innovative solutions to build this much clean energy, which is why we should utilize strategic, untapped spaces throughout California to capture more energy from sunlight. Existing developed areas, like parking lots and highways, should be used to their fullest extent to capture the state's abundant solar energy potential. It's time we used our plentiful parking lots and extensive highway rights-of-way to produce more clean energy now.

Between highways and parking lots, California has tremendous solar potential. About [5.5 percent](#) of the nation's developed land is covered by parking lots, and just in Los Angeles County, surface parking lots cover over [100 square miles](#). California has over [52,000 lane miles](#) in its state highway system and over [23,000 lane miles](#) of federal interstate highways, freeways,

and expressways. These vast areas soak up the sun's energy every day, making them ideal locations to install solar panels and put this sunlight to use.

Thank you for your leadership and for authoring this important legislation that will help California transition to clean energy and meet our climate emissions targets by 2045. Incentivizing solar over parking lots and making a plan for solar along highways are important next steps to fully power California with clean energy.

Sincerely,

Steven King, Environment California
Allie Kelly, The Ray
Roger Lin, Center for Biological Diversity
Melissa Romero, California Environmental Voters
Bill Allayaud, Environmental Working Group
Nick Jensen, California Native Plant Society
Jack Eidt, SoCal 350 Climate Action
Jenn Engstrom, CALPIRG
Ellie Cohen, The Climate Center
Janet Cox, Climate Action California
Jose Torre-Bueno, Center for Community Energy
Esperanza Vielma, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
Gerald Meral, Natural Heritage Institute
Thomas Wheeler, Environmental Protection Information Center
Bailey Henderson, ASUC External Affairs Vice President's Office
Andrew Carman, Environteers.org
Magi Amma, The Climate Alliance of Santa Cruz County
Eileen Mitro, Climate Action Mendocino
Pauline M Seales, Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
Kevin Hamilton, Central California Asthma Collaborative
Leah Redwood, Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area
Omega and Brenda Wilson, West End Revitalization Association (WERA)
Mikey Knab, Climate Action Campaign
Shoshana Wechsler, Sunflower Alliance
Adam Aron, Green New Deal at UC San Diego
Ector Olivares, Catholic Charities of Stockton
RL Miller, Climate Hawks Vote
Tom Benthin, Indivisible Sonoma County
Lisa Swanson, Climate Reality Project Orange County Chapter
Suzanne Hume, CleanEarth4Kids.com
Jan Dietrick, 350 Ventura County Climate Hub
Michael Wellborn, Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks
Alan Weiner, 350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley

Stuart Wood, Sustainable Claremont
Geoffrey Robinson, Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee
Cheryl Auger, Ban SUP (Single Use Plastics)
Susan Morgan, Indivisible Marin
Karinna Gonzalez, Hammond Climate Solutions Foundation
Elizabeth Chopp, San Diego 350
Jessica Craven, Feminists in Action Los Angeles
Eric Veium, SLO Climate Action
Dennis Arp, Citizens' Climate Lobby SoCal Tri-Counties Chapter
Michael J. Painter, Californians for Western Wilderness
Laura Neish, 350 Bay Area Action
Katie Huffling, Alliance for Nurses for Healthy Environments
Chirag Bhakta, Food and Water Watch
Linda Seeley, San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace
Emily Brandt, San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club
Emily Brandt, Sierra Club, Tehipite Chapter
Susan George, Progressive Zionists of California
Herb Ferrette, Little USA Community Solar Campus
David Diaz, Active San Gabriel Valley
Debbie Mytels, Peninsula Interfaith Climate Action
Teresa Bui, Pacific Environment
Jim Lindburg, Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Allis Druffel, California Interfaith Power and Light
Stefan Tongur, Electron Wireless Inc.
Jay Buys, Visceral
Gopal Chanker, Récolte Energy
Scott Borden, Emerald Blue LLC
Andrew Truman Kim, Acela Biotek
Robert Haw, Habitable Designs
Trey Ward, Direct Connect Development Company
Anne Webb, Sesame Solar
Julie Saxe-Taller, CA Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism
David Fink, Los Angeles Business Council
Michael Colvin, Environmental Defense Fund
Rebecca R. Hernandez, Wild Energy Center, University of California, Davis
Andrea Leon-Grossmann, Vote Solar
Betsy Reifsnider, Mono Lake Committee
Neal Desai, National Parks Conservation Association