



Assembly Member Steve Bennett
1021 O Street, Suite 4710
Sacramento, CA 95814

May 25, 2023

Re: AB 1550 (Bennett) - Green Hydrogen - **SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Bennett,

The undersigned groups write in support of AB 1550 which would establish that no later than 2045 all hydrogen produced or used in California for electricity generation and vehicle fueling must be green, and establishes a definition of green hydrogen for the electricity sector. We also support the amendments taken in the Assembly Appropriations Committee to develop interim green hydrogen targets. While further detail and clarification will be important, we support this bill continuing to move forward.

It is crucial that the only hydrogen used and produced in California is via renewable-powered electrolysis. Strict standards for hydrogen production are essential because emissions-intensive hydrogen production technologies could worsen the climate crisis and harm public-health in California's most vulnerable communities. Hydrogen is not an inherently 'climate-neutral' source of energy; its effects on the climate, positive or negative, depend on where and how it is produced. AB 1550 takes an important step forward by codifying production standards for hydrogen used in certain sectors, adding environmental protections that are necessary to align hydrogen production with California's climate and air quality goals.

There are inherent risks to a rapid, large-scale buildout of hydrogen production. More detail on hydrogen production and the climate and health impacts of its production, transportation, and use are available in a March 23, 2023 letter submitted by our organizations and others to

Legislative leadership and the Governor's office (attached).¹ With further detail, AB 1550 can incorporate the full suite of standards necessary to exclude hydrogen from polluting processes from the definition of "green hydrogen." AB 1550 is also unclear with respect to the role of hydrogen in the transportation sector and needs to be clarified. The author has been collaborative and receptive to many viewpoints and we look forward to resolving these outstanding questions as the bill moves forward..

Given the urgency to establish strict standards for the use and production of hydrogen in California, we feel AB 1550 is a helpful step forward and we encourage you and the full Appropriations Committee to move the bill off the suspense file. Our organizations look forward to working with you on the various provisions of the bill to ensure robust air quality, public safety, and environmental protections are included in subsequent versions of AB 1550, and in the meantime support the bill moving to the Assembly floor.

Sincerely,



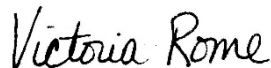
Melissa Romero
Senior Legislative Manager
California Environmental Voters



Katelyn Roedner Sutter
California State Director
Environmental Defense Fund



Laura Deehan
State Director
Environment California



Victoria Rome
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¹ An organization's support for the attached March 23, 2023 letter does not necessarily indicate support for AB 1550.



Sara Gerson
Senior Attorney, Clean Energy
Earthjustice



Ellie Cohen
Chief Executive Officer
The Climate Center