



theclimatecenter.org

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April 1, 2024

The Honorable Thomas J. Umberg
Chair, Judiciary Committee
California State Assembly
1020 N Street, Room 104
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1036 (Limon) Voluntary carbon offsets: business regulation - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Umberg, Vice Chair Wilk, and Committee Members,

I am writing to you on behalf of The Climate Center to request your support for Senate Bill 1036. This bill plays a vital role in safeguarding the integrity of voluntary carbon offsets and ensuring that environmental claims related to greenhouse gas reductions are quantifiable, real, additional, and durable.

The Climate Center is a climate and energy policy nonprofit working to rapidly reduce climate pollution at scale. We are a think tank, do tank working collaboratively for accelerated, equitable climate policy in California. We know that as goes California, so goes the world. With the climate crisis rapidly worsening, we engage in cross-sector coalitions to enact bold, science-based policy that sparks innovation and channels market forces for speed and scale greenhouse gas reductions to benefit everyone.


SB 1036, introduced by Senator Monique Limón, addresses a critical issue that affects the future of our state—voluntary carbon offsets. Voluntary carbon offsets are credits that theoretically represent a set quantity of greenhouse gas reduction or removal that can be purchased from a third party within the voluntary carbon market. They enable individuals, businesses, governments, universities, municipalities, nonprofits, and others to ostensibly offset their unavoidable emissions.

Climate change poses an unprecedented threat to California's environment, economy, and the well-being of its residents. In the face of this global crisis, it is crucial that we reduce greenhouse gas emissions as rapidly as possible to mitigate its impacts. We must ensure that investments are effective and that proposed climate solutions actually deliver greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

The voluntary carbon offset market, while well-intentioned, has been plagued by issues of credibility and transparency. Many offset projects have made exaggerated or false claims about their carbon-reduction benefits, leading to a lack of trust among consumers and businesses who want to take meaningful action against climate change. SB 1036 seeks to rectify this by introducing much-needed regulations and oversight to ensure that offsets purchased on a voluntary basis are backed by high-quality, verifiable projects that genuinely contribute to our climate goals.

We respectfully request your support for SB 1036 to ensure that carbon offsets in California actually deliver emissions reductions and that buyers are getting what they pay for.

Sincerely,



Ellie Cohen
Chief Executive Officer

cc:

Senator Scott Wilk (Vice Chair)
Senator Benjamin Allen
Senator Angelique V. Ashby
Senator Anna M. Caballero
Senator María Elena Durazo
Senator John Laird
Senator Dave Min
Senator Roger W. Niello
Senator Henry I. Stern
Senator Aisha Wahab