



Our Mission

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

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The Honorable Chris Rogers
Assemblymember, District 2
State Capitol P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0002
Via Email: logan.pitts@asm.ca.gov

March 25, 2025

RE: AB 531 (Rogers) – The Climate Center – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Rogers,

I am writing on behalf of The Climate Center and its thousands of supporters statewide to express support for your bill, Assembly Bill 531, which will help California achieve its ambitious climate goals and create well-paid union jobs by allowing geothermal energy to fully utilize the California Energy Commission's one-stop shop "opt-in" permitting program.

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, equity-centered, labor-friendly 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 GHG reductions to benefit everyone.

Today, renewable energy developers can choose to site and permit their projects through what is typically called the "opt-in" process at the Energy Commission. The opt-in process concept is that the Commission serves as a one-stop shop for all siting, permitting, and regulatory issues to move projects more quickly. A high level of community engagement and review are still required.

Because only projects 50 MW in size or greater can use this process, most geothermal power plants (which are typically more in the range of 10, 20, or 30 MW in size) are functionally excluded. This is despite the fact that except for brief downtime for occasional maintenance, geothermal power plants deliver electricity very valuably around the clock, year after year.

AB 531 will simply clarify that a geothermal power plant of any size can be approved through the opt-in process, helping to bring more of these urgently needed clean resources online faster and creating well-paid union jobs in the process.

Again, we strongly support AB 531 and thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

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

Ellie Cohen, CEO
The Climate Center