

Honorable Christopher M. Ward
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Sacramento, CA 94249-0078
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March 3, 2025

RE: AB 368 (Ward) – The Climate Center – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblyman Ward,

I am writing on behalf of The Climate Center and its thousands of supporters statewide to express support for your bill AB 368, which seeks to improve building standards by adding an optional state-wide certification procedure for achieving high comfort and high-performance standards.

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 GHG reductions to benefit everyone.

Specifically, we support certified Passive House standards as an alternative compliance pathway to existing Title 24 energy efficiency standards. The Passive House standard is well-tested worldwide. Moreover, its high standard will prevent future building performance upgrades needed to respond to extreme weather. Passive Houses are allergen-free, smoke-tight, and fire-resistant. Benefits include high indoor air quality, heat resilience, outdoor noise mitigation, much-decreased greenhouse gas emissions, and lower utility bill payments for occupants.

With construction costs at all-time highs, California's code entities should look for efficiencies and cost-savings that preserve health and safety while noting that the affordable housing shortage requires creative and innovative solutions. AB 368 recognizes that lowering power bills is a significant step toward achieving affordability for building owners and tenants. At the same time, by recognizing this alternative permitting pathway, the bill eliminates redundant regulatory costs now incurred by developers erecting high-performance buildings, yielding other cost-savings.

For the above reasons, The Climate Center supports AB 368. For further information, please contact our Legislative Manager, Allison Hilliard (allison@theclimatecenter.org). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Ellie Cohen, CEO