



March 30, 2015

Senator Hueso, Chair
 Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications
 State Capitol, Room 4035
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 350 (De León and Leno) Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015-SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Hueso and Committee Members,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and our more than 1 million California supporters and activists, we are writing to thank you for your path breaking leadership in introducing Senate Bill 350, to carry out the bold clean energy and climate goals put forth by Governor Brown in his Inaugural Address earlier this year. We are ready to roll up our sleeves and work with you in the Capitol and in communities across the state to develop the next step in strong, workable, defensible climate policies for California as the bill moves forward.

With 2020 rapidly approaching, and the impacts of climate change ever more clear here in California, it is prudent and timely to take the next steps to advance a clean energy economy and create jobs by increasing renewable energy, improving the energy efficiency of our buildings, and reducing petroleum use throughout the state. As you have emphasized, the fossil fuel

economy is one built on “shifting sands,” and Californians deserve better. We are already proving that addressing climate change and building a thriving economy can go hand-in-hand, and this bill would continue California’s leadership.

As the 2014 National Climate Assessment states, “Climate change, once considered an issue for the distant future, has moved firmly into the present.” From raging wildfires to severe drought, acidifying oceans to rising sea levels – the impacts of climate change are increasingly hitting home in California. Since the passage of AB 32, the state has been at the forefront of global efforts to respond to these threats. California has attracted \$27 billion in private investment in clean energy businesses, which now employ hundreds of thousands of people. California is also ensuring that energy remains affordable. The average residential electric bill has dropped \$44 since 2006, when adjusted for inflation. In addition, California’s partnerships with national and subnational governments in Mexico, China, Quebec, Peru, Israel and along the Pacific Coastal States plus British Columbia are strong evidence of California’s growing influence as a climate action leader inspiring shared solutions – but much work lies ahead.

Crafting California’s long-term climate policy requires a sustained, adaptive effort with input from all levels of government and a broad-base of stakeholders, including communities impacted by climate change, labor, businesses, the conservation community and more. SB 350 provides an ambitious, yet achievable, road map to move us forward. Thank you for your leadership in introducing SB 350, we look forward to working with you on this important bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Purchas
Environment Defense Fund

Victoria Rome
Natural Resource Defense Council

Rico Mastrodonato
Trust for Public Lands

Michelle Kinman
Environment California

Ron Sundergill
National Parks Conservation Association

Jena Price
California League of Conservation Voters

Stuart Cohen
TransForm

Helen Hutchison
League of Women Voters of California

Eric Wesselman
Friends of the River

Bonnie Holmes-Gen
American Lung Association, California

Nick Lapis
Californians Against Waste

Kathryn Phillips
Sierra Club

Andrew Grinberg
Clean Water Action

Adrienne Alvord
Union of Concerned Scientists

Marce Gutierrez-Graudins
Azul

Soapy Mulholland
Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Duncan McFetridge
Cleveland National Forest Foundation

Sara Kent
Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation

Matt Read
Breathe CA

Dan Silver
Endangered Habitats League

James Stone
Circulate San Diego

Loni Russell
Moms Clean Air Force

Mike McCoy

Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association

cc: Pro Tem deLeon
Senator Leno