



March 17, 2016

The Honorable Das Williams, Chair
 Assembly Natural Resources Committee
 State Capitol, Room 4005
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1550 (Gomez) – **SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Williams:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our strong support for Assembly Bill 1550 (Gomez), which increases the investment of California's climate pollution funds to benefit disadvantaged communities (DACs) while simultaneously directing a portion of these funds to projects that directly benefit low-income households.

Specifically, AB 1550 requires a minimum of 25% of the proceeds from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) to be invested in projects that are located *directly within* DACs, as identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency's California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen) established under SB 535 (De Leon). Since CalEnviroScreen classifies a quarter of the state's population as living in DACs, at least a quarter of GGRF proceeds should be invested directly within the boundaries of DACs, which generally provides more assistance than simply "benefiting" these communities. This is a simple equity adjustment to the existing formula that reflects the need to invest in these communities hit first and worst by the adverse impacts of climate change.

Additionally, experience has shown that some of the best greenhouse gas reduction strategies are those that benefit low-income households, whether they lie inside or outside CalEnviroScreen-designated DACs. Low-income Californians often lack adequate and affordable transportation and housing choices, access to green spaces, and spend a significant percentage of their budgets on necessities including fuel and energy. For these reasons, AB 1550 also requires an additional 25% of the proceeds to fund projects that benefit low-income households. These households, located in both urban and rural areas of California, can immediately benefit from a designated portion of GGRF dollars being available for multiple projects and programs – such as advanced clean cars, weatherization and energy efficiency, transit passes, and household clean energy generation – that can help families both be a part of climate solutions and adapt to a changing climate.

Numerous findings suggest that low-income communities and communities of color are and will continue to be disproportionately impacted by the adverse impacts of climate change. It is, therefore, critical that the state continue making a concerted effort to specifically target investments in these areas as well as take advantage of every opportunity to lift poor and working Californians out of poverty while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

AB 1550 is about making a greater investment in California's environmentally and socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, which has the potential to yield significant climate, public health, and cost benefits while helping bridge the 'green divide'.

Please support AB 1550 when it comes before you in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Shiva Patel
Energy Solidarity Cooperative

Ann Rojas-Cheatham
Community Health for Asian Americans

Sandra McNeill
TRUST South LA

Brian Angus
Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission

Jim Lindburg
Friends Committee on Legislation of California

Jeanie Ward-Waller
California Bicycle Coalition

Bill Sadler
Safe Routes to School National Partnership

Kevin D. Hamilton
Central California Asthma Collaborative

John Mataka
Grayson Neighborhood Council

Kemba Shakur
Urban Releaf

Stanley Greschner
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Valley Clean Air Now

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Mark Masaoka
Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council

Remy De La Peza
Little Tokyo Service Center

Catherine Martineau
Canopy

Ray Tretheway
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Kelly Conroy
Tree Davis

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Alan Lessik
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Huntington Beach Tree Society, Inc.

Claire Robinson
Amigos de los Rios

Sandra Fluke
Voices for Progress

Laurie Broedling
Tree San Diego

Mallika Nair
Growing Together

Jackie Heyneman
Fallbrook Land Conservancy

Willis White
Solar-Oversight

Joel Ervice
Regional Asthma Management and Prevention
(RAMP)

James Pappas
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Michelle Passero
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David Lewis
Save the Bay

Cynthia Strathmann
Strategic Actions for a Just Economy

Nancy Hughes
California Urban Forests Council

Miya Yoshitani
Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Kerry N. Doi
Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE)

Guillermo Mayer
Public Advocates

Ronald Hughes
California Vanpool Authority

Wendy Butts
Los Angeles Conservation Corps

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Greenlining Institute

Bill Magavern
Coalition for Clean Air

Rico Mastrodonato
Trust for Public Land

Jena Price
California League of Conservation Voters

Ron Sundergill
National Parks Conservation Association

Chuck Mills
California ReLeaf