



City Manager
(707) 822-5953

Environmental Services
822-8184

Police
822-2428

Recreation
822-7091

Community Development
822-5955

Finance
822-5951

Public Works
822-5957

Transportation
822-3775

736 F Street
Arcata, CA 95521

July 15, 2015

The Honorable Kevin De León
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Ben Hueso
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, California 95814

Senate Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: SB 350 (De León and Leno) Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015—
SUPPORT**

Dear Senator De León, Chairman Hueso and Committee Members:

The City of Arcata Supports 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.

The City of Arcata has been working for years toward goals of energy sustainability, energy independence, and climate neutrality. The City adopted its Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan in 2006 and since that time has implemented numerous reduction efforts, including development of a municipal forest carbon sequestration program, a voter-approved tax on residential excessive electricity use, installation of electric vehicle support infrastructure, development of a Green Fleet Policy and a Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan to outline strategies that will result in mode shift to non-emission releasing forms of transportation, as well as investing in efficiency measures through City operations.

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.

Senator De León, Chairman Hueso, and
Senate Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications
Page Two
July 15, 2015

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. Senate Bill 350 provides an ambitious, yet achievable, road map to move us forward.

While local communities have and will achieve much success, it will still require state leadership through policies and comprehensive programs that drive large-scale renewable development and long-term reductions to become an emission-free state. Projections have shown that as the electric grid emissions decline through development of renewable energy, emissions from the extraction, transmission and use of Natural Gas become a significant portion of the remaining emissions. Long-term solutions should start now to look at how to plan for technology, equipment and appliance transition away from Natural Gas and to carbon-free, renewable grid to meet the proposed reductions set by SB 350.

Thank you for introducing this measure to promote environmental progress, healthier communities and a stronger economy.

Sincerely,



Michael Winkler
Mayor

MW:bd