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Let Local Government Lead the Fight Against Climate Change and Carbon Neutrality

Dear Commissioners,

We are on year-three of devastating wildfires. Prior to that was a statewide drought that lasted the better part of a decade. The State has long asked local governments to be early adopters, pilot new approaches, and provide front line education to citizens about climate change. This year was a hallmark year. Cities across California took collective action, just as the State has wanted for the last two decades. These agencies spent a lot of their own resources enacting the will of and protecting their voters. Now they are being hit with bogus law suits, funded by the fossil fuel industry's dark money -- likely state and federal subsidies and ratepayer funds meant for good. It is crucial that you, the California Energy Commission, stand with our cities and not the fossil fuel industry. Solar all-electric buildings also cost less to build and to operate, helping mitigate the housing affordability crisis in California. They will reduce air pollution, both indoor and outdoor, improving public health. We urge you to approve these REACH codes and to adopt state policies that build upon them to rapidly decarbonize all California buildings. The wrong decision at this juncture could set the fight against climate change back a decade or more, and we simply do not have that kind of time. I am thinking of my children and my unborn grandchildren as I write this, and praying that the Energy Commission show leadership to stand in solidarity with local jurisdictions and not fossil fuel companies.

Warm regards,

Brian Barnacle