CALIFORNIANS SUPPORT LOCAL ACTION TO CREATE ZERO-EMISSION HOMES AND BUILDINGS

California is ground zero for climate change. Our residents are experiencing unprecedented health and economic damages from wildfires, heat waves, and droughts. The same fossil fuels causing climate change are also disproportionately burdening low-income communities and communities of color with some of the most polluted air in the nation.

As leaders representing millions of Californians who are ready for healthy, clean air solutions, we are voicing our support for local governments to curb pollution by reducing and eliminating gas combustion in our homes and commercial buildings.

Capitalizing on California’s commitment to 100% clean electricity by transitioning to non-polluting, efficient electric appliances will protect public health, reduce air pollution, increase housing supply and affordability, and enable California to achieve its zero-carbon commitments by 2045 while continuing its national climate leadership.

To enable faster and broader action at the state level, we call for city and counties to take robust action to accelerate the transition to zero-emissions homes and buildings.

Local governments should consider action that:

- Translates into immediate public health benefits, especially in communities hardest hit by indoor and outdoor air pollution;
- Ensures that healthy homes and buildings are accessible for all Californians, especially low-income renters;
- Allows new homes and buildings to be built more quickly and affordably by eliminating the need for gas hookups and infrastructure, while also saving building owners and renters money on their energy bills;
- Spurs the economy through innovation and investment in clean heating technologies;
- Creates career pathways for skilled and trained workers by ensuring that building decarbonization is done through program requirements and project structures, such as community benefit agreements, which ensure a highly skilled and trained workforce paid family-sustaining wages and that can include disadvantaged community members, veterans, and local hiring;
- Supports a just transition for fossil-fuel workers and for communities impacted by this energy transition that ensures financial support, re-training, job placement and opportunities for employment with family-sustaining wages at a level they had in their unionized fossil fuel work;
- Combats climate change by reducing emissions from burning gas.

Addressing the challenges of climate change and air pollution effectively and equitably depends on local action. By voicing our support, we hope to embolden local regulators, city councils and other decision makers to demonstrate leadership that creates healthy, safe and thriving communities.