

February 15, 2018

Governor Edmund G. Brown
State Capitol – Room 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Members of the California State Assembly
c/o Speaker Anthony Rendon
State Capitol – Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Members of the California State Senate
c/o President pro Tempore Kevin de León
State Capitol – Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown and Members of the California State Legislature:

On behalf of the undersigned faith-based organizations and faith leaders, we write to express our full support for Senate Bill 100 (De León). Senate Bill 100 will increase the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to 60 percent by the end of 2030 and establishes a new state policy that all electricity must come from renewable and zero-carbon resources by 2045.

Our respective faith traditions inspire us to live our faith through action. We are called to love and care for each other and our neighbors. Climate change due to human activities is a symptom of a greater challenge: how to live sustainably and justly on this Earth, and we recognize a moral duty to cherish Creation for future generations.

The current rise of greenhouse gas emissions is leading to an unprecedented rate of increase in global average surface temperature of extreme detriment to the Earth's ecosystems and species. Millions of our fellow human beings are at risk of becoming climate refugees. Burning fossil fuels is a major cause of the ocean acidification that is threatening our fisheries. Most greenhouse gas emissions are created by fossil fuel combustion and yet the planet's increasing population continues to pursue economic growth policies that are dependent on fossil fuels. The Earth holds more fossil fuel reserves than are safe to burn, and the vast majority of fossil fuels must remain in the ground in order to prevent catastrophic climate change.

We further recognize that we have very limited time to avert catastrophic climate change and that we must take urgent action. As the 6th largest economy in the world, California has a special responsibility to take a leading role in addressing climate change. We are grateful for the global leadership that our state has provided, even as we face great challenge. If we follow our conscience and focus our will – both individually and collectively – we shall rise to the challenge and enjoy healthier communities, a vibrant economy and sustainable future.

According to the November 2017 Annual Report on the Renewables Portfolio Standard issued by the California Public Utilities Commission, the state's investor-owned utilities are on track to meet the 50 percent RPS by 2020, a full decade earlier than was mandated by Senate Bill 350 (De León, 2015). While this is a remarkable development, it is also abundantly clear that we must take bolder action to prevent greater harm.

Together with your leadership we can restore balance. California can continue to lead the way to a swift and smooth transition from the dirty electricity that pollutes our environment and our communities to a sustainable, clean, renewable electricity future.

We call upon our leaders to move swiftly and urgently to enact Senate Bill 100.

Sincerely yours,

Frances Aubrey
Alameda County Interfaith Climate Action Network

Raymond Burnell
California Catholic Conference

Elizabeth Sholes
California Church Impact

Rev. Sally Bingham
California Interfaith Power and Light

Rev. Peg Schultz-Akerson / Jane Affonso
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