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July 20, 2021

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
 United States Senate  
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to urge you to prioritize measures to mitigate climate change as the Senate drafts the budget resolution for fiscal year 2022.

The County requests your support for provisions to promote the development of clean energy, increase the energy efficiency of buildings, and support carbon capture and greenhouse gas reduction. In addition, the County requests more aggressive funding for local and regional energy and climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives, including alternative transportation, energy efficiency, water efficiency, distributed clean energy, and electrification of the transportation sector through EV charging infrastructure, transit, and incentives for zero-emissions vehicle manufacturing/adoption. In addition, measures are needed to transition to 100 percent clean and renewable energy to enable deeper GHG reductions economy-wide.

The County supports efforts to foster communitywide sustainability by promoting economic stability and environmental protection and stewardship through participation in the growing green economy. This includes efforts to catalyze community renewal, redevelopment and reinvestment, incubate and support innovative businesses, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and incentivize energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy. In 2015, the County adopted an Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP) to achieve a greenhouse gas emission reduction goal of 50 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. Aggressive initiatives on the federal level will provide essential support to achieving these goals.

Santa Barbara County has faced unprecedented extreme weather in the past decade, including prolonged drought, extreme and intense wildfires, a year-round fire season, and a deadly debris flow preceded by a torrential storm burst. These direct impacts lend an urgency to the County's support for aggressive climate change mitigation on the federal level. As the fiscal year 2022 budget resolution is considered, please prioritize measures to mitigate climate change for inclusion in the legislation.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilchrest  
 Washington Representative

DWG: awg