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QUOTES: Coalition calls on Governor Newsom to uphold funding for Equitable Building Decarbonization program

After the Governor's proposed budget cuts to the Equitable Building Decarbonization Program, a coalition of climate justice and environmental organizations urge policymakers to maintain \$922 million in the budget and bolster the program through a climate bond to accelerate heat pump installations and home upgrades for low-income households.

Sacramento, CA – Today, a coalition of environmental justice and equity groups, environmental organizations, energy providers, and equipment manufacturers submitted a letter urging Governor Newsom and California policymakers to uphold \$922 million for the California Energy Commission's [Equitable Building Decarbonization \(EBD\) Program](#) and bolster the program with \$400 million in a final climate bond. The EBD Program would help expand access to cooling, improve air quality, reduce climate pollution, and boost the health and comfort of low-income and environmental justice communities, and help the state reach its 3 million climate-ready and 6 million heat pump goal by 2030.

STATEMENTS:

“At CRPE, our efforts have been focused on facilitating the implementation of the San Joaquin Valley Pilot Program (AB 2672, Perea, 2014), which aimed to install electric appliances in disadvantaged communities within the San Joaquin Valley. We encountered some challenges with this program, particularly the lack of funding for home retrofits and high-quality contractors necessary to maximize the program's impact on our communities. While this program has been successful in providing much-needed upgrades, increased funding would have resulted in greater success with implementation. Therefore, CRPE and our allies at the Building Energy, Equity & Power (BEEP) Coalition strongly advocate that the state maintains the \$922 million budget for the CEC Equitable Building Decarbonization Program to help ensure that no one is left behind,” **said Grecia Orozco, Staff Attorney at the Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment.**

"We (SAJE) worked hard to shape a tenant-centered approach to decarbonization through the EBD program that tenants in South LA, a neighborhood that is disproportionately burdened by climate change, can use to make their homes healthier without fear of displacement," **said Grace Hut, Program Coordinator at Strategic Actions for a Just Economy.**

"Amidst worsening climate impacts and rising housing costs, it is imperative that environmental justice communities across the state can safely and affordably secure healthy home retrofits. The Equitable Building Decarbonization program is a critical investment to ensure low-income households can access clean appliances and other holistic improvements while avoiding rent increases and displacement," **said Elle Chen, the Senior Policy & Campaign Manager of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network.**

"Working-class Californians need healthy, climate-resilient homes and communities that are outfitted with zero-emission heat pumps. Large-scale solutions like the Equitable Building Decarbonization program can help improve air quality, expand access to cooling, and meet California's climate goals. Shrinking funding for the program would have negative impacts on Californians," **said Jose Torres, California Director at the Building Decarbonization Coalition.**