



April 23, 2025

The Honorable Mia Bonta
 California State Assembly
 State Capitol
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 1318 – requesting inclusion of all nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations

Dear Assemblywoman Bonta,

On behalf of the undersigned nonprofits, each of which operate and serve in California, we write to thank you for your leadership to protect nonprofits and ask you to expand the scope of AB 1318 to be inclusive of all 501(c)(3) nonprofits. We appreciate our engagement with your office and your intention to protect our organizations, our employees, and those we serve from unfounded and politically motivated attacks from a Federal administration aimed at hobbling our abilities to serve our communities and protect California’s health, well-being, and environment.

The state must do all it can to preserve our ability to serve and to limit the adverse consequences if the Trump administration follows through on rumored threats to strip the 501(c)(3) status from organizations it does not agree with.

California state laws – almost universally – throughout the codes, tie nonprofits’ ability to operate, fundraise, and access state and local grant and contracting opportunities to our federal 501(c)(3) status. Your bill AB 1318 thoughtfully proposes to also ensure that organizations that are “*exempt from state income taxation under Section 23701d of the Revenue and Taxation Code*” will be recognized by the state as a qualified nonprofit. This would serve the goal of continuing eligibility for such nonprofits even if the federal government attempts to illegally and unfairly strip the 501(c)(3) status of a nonprofit organization otherwise operating lawfully.

Our organizations would be pleased to strongly support AB 1318 if it is expanded to ensure nonprofits like ours that are under direct threat. We are hearing that climate advocates will be targeted next by the Trump Administration with widespread rumors that a federal Executive Order will be issued (potentially on Earth Day – April 22, 2025) to revoke the tax-exempt status of many green groups. Funders, our federal partners, and climate-oriented groups are taking these threats very seriously given that the rumors seem credible.

Early indications suggest the EO may strip certain nonprofits of tax-exempt status by labeling them terrorists. The groups that may be included: national climate justice orgs, national nonprofits that receive foreign funding, and foundations funding organizations or projects outside the US. This exchange from a Fox News interview with Trump on April 17, 2025 lends credibility to the rumors:

Trump: "Tax exempt status is a privilege... and its been abused by a lot more than Harvard."

Question from reporter: "On the tax-exempt status, what are the other groups you'd like to see lose status?"

Trump: "We'll be making some other statements ... but it's a big deal. They're so rich, they're so bad. They've earned so much.... but they go and abuse their power."

Reporter: "Are we talking about immigrant rights groups? environmental groups?"

Trump: "Environmentals? Could be ...could be. Look, I have an environmental group called CREW... a guy that heads crew is... they're supposed to be charitable but they just go after Donald Trump... a big abuse ... we're going to find out soon."

While we maintain actions such as those rumored to be illegal acts, the chaos on concerns that the EO aims to cause is very real and will be felt if not condemned and countered with state action.

Our sector needs the Governor’s and legislature’s support of nonprofits. Your collaboration with us is necessary to protect the missions and causes delivered by our members to make California healthier, safer, and a thriving state. AB 1318 is a key part of this collaboration, and we welcome the opportunity to work with you.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

MaryRuth Gross
Legislative Committee Chair
350 Bay Area Action

Leslie Tamminen
Director of Earth Sciences
7th Generation Advisors

David Diaz
Executive Director
Active San Gabriel Valley

Gabriela Villareal
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Maggie Tsai
State Political Director
Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Kimberly Harrison
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Mary Nguyen
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Raquel Mason
Senior Legislative Manager
California Environmental Justice Alliance
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Susan Stephenson
Executive Director
California Interfaith Power & Light

Laura Jimenez
Executive Director
California Latinas for Reproductive
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Kendra Ramsey
Executive Director
California Mobility Fund (CalBike)

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Dillon Delvo
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Dave Henson
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Occidental Arts and Ecology Center

Margaret Reeves
Senior Scientist
Pesticide Action and Agroecology
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Jessica Velez
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