



Finding the ways that work

August 12, 2014

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
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LA City Council President Herb Wesson
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Council File #14-0907

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Dear Mayor Garcetti and City Council President Wesson,

On behalf of Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), please accept this letter in strong support of Councilmember Paul Koretz's motion to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the City of Los Angeles to 80% below 1990 levels by the year 2050.

Environmental Defense Fund is a leading national nonprofit organization working to create transformational solutions to the most serious environmental problems. Our mission is to preserve natural systems, which we do by linking science, economics, law and innovative private-sector partnerships.

Recent studies out of UCLA¹ demonstrate the vulnerability Los Angeles has in particular to climate change, where if emissions go unchecked the city faces dangerous increases in extreme heat days, smog, fires, and water stress. Climate change impacts are a serious threat to the economic and social well-being of this city. We therefore believe the City of Los Angeles will benefit greatly from taking action to slash greenhouse gas emissions.

Positioning the city now to meet a long-term greenhouse gas emissions reduction target will result in fewer hospital visits and more jobs in the green economy. Notably, a recent study by UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation and EDF shows that Los Angeles County is currently leaving around 98 percent of its solar capacity untapped. Achieving just 10 percent of its rooftop solar potential could create 47,000 jobs and slash nearly 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually — the equivalent of taking about half a million cars off the road.²

¹ <http://c-change.la/temperature/>

² <http://innovation.luskin.ucla.edu/content/profile-clean-energy-investment-potential>

Based on sound science and forward-looking economics, this Council motion puts in place an important framework guiding the steps necessary for critical greenhouse gas emissions reductions. Creating baseline greenhouse gas inventories, carbon risk assessments, and an overall Climate Action Plan is crucial to begin addressing the issue. This motion will engage multiple departments, businesses, and cross-sector stakeholders to make sure that all have a part in the process to make Los Angeles a prosperous climate leader.

By leading the way on climate change action, Los Angeles can not only mitigate the real risks it faces now and in the coming decades but also inspire other cities to follow suit. As such, we firmly support this motion and respectfully urge the City of Los Angeles to pass it.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at (415) 293-6080 or email me at lfaber@edf.org.

Sincerely,



Lauren Faber, West Coast Political Director
Environmental Defense Fund

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