Sen Susan Rubio [D-S24] | Introduced 02/14/20 Ref. to Sen. Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications



## **Climate Pollution Reduction in Low-Income Homes**

- Existing law currently supports programs designed to provide long-term reductions in energy consumption by low-income household dwelling units.
- This bill establishes the Climate Pollution Reduction in Low-Income Homes Initiative, providing grants for eligible
  entities which give financial assistance to low-income households for the purchase of low carbon-emitting
  appliances.
- The State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission shall develop guidelines for the implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction in Low-Income Homes Initiative, which include each of the following resolutions:
  - Require eligible entities to leverage federal or state funds providing assistance for the purchase of low-carbon-emitting appliances.
  - Specify criteria for appliances, including water heaters, cooking appliances, home heating and cooling systems, refrigerator and freezers, and washers and dryers, that delineate eligibility for financial assistance.
  - Ensure that safe, reliable appliances are provided to stabilize the utility bills of low-income households.
  - Ensure that low-income households transition their living spaces to zero-carbon footprints.
- An eligible entity receiving a grant may expend funds for outreach and technical assistance, rebates, loans, installation, educational information, and other support services to assist households receiving financial assistance under the initiative. They may also expend up to 20 percent of each grant on accessory infrastructure, including electrical upgrades.

## MAP's Perspective on S.B. 1035

MAP supports this bill. We have a limited amount of time to stop climate change before the issue becomes irreversible. Policy has to change <u>now</u> if people—regardless of socioeconomic class—want a chance at a future. Though businesses are slowly adopting more environmentally sustainable policies, combating climate change requires a cumulative effort from everyone, including marginalized communities. Thus, it is imperative that governments provide the adequate resources to enable households living in poverty to reduce their carbon footprint through the use of grants. In doing so, we can mobilize all groups of people regardless of class or background in reducing the impact of climate change.

## Youth Perspective on Climate Change

One of the many signs of accelerated climate change are the wildfires that have continued to burn throughout California. Witnessing the lives uprooted by these wildfires and the preventative power outages by PG&E have helped us truly realize the urgency of climate change and the necessity for environmental reform.

As the next generation, our futures are being compromised by the lack of proactive climate legislation in governments worldwide. This bill provides an opportunity to substantially reduce carbon emissions while uplifting the marginalized in our communities.

## Catholic Perspective on this Issue

"We cannot fail to praise the [organizations] employing ... pressure, to ensure that each government carries out its proper and inalienable responsibility to preserve its country's environment and natural resources, without capitulating to spurious local or international interests."

— Laudato Si by Pope Francis



