



California Green Business Program

- Establishes a California Green Business Program underneath the Californian Environmental Protection Agency
- Develops baseline sector-specific environmental standards for local green business certification programs
 - i.e. increased energy efficiency, pollution prevention, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, water conservation, waste reduction practices, and efficient and active transportation initiatives
 - Gives local governments the certification authority
- Institutes tool and outreach campaigns on behalf of the green business certification programs to encourage business participation and public recognition of the certification as an indicator of sustainability.
- Provides a collaborative framework between the green business certification programs operated by local/state agencies that operate small business efficiency and economic development programs
 - Examples include 1) attempting to meet/measure state-mandated business conservation efforts, 2) developing directives and data collection regarding environmental outcomes, or 3) having California green businesses adopt environmental initiatives

MAP's Perspective on A.B. 470

MAP supports this bill because addressing climate change has been a cornerstone of our advocacy thus far. However, individual efforts can only reach so far. The economic consequences of a rapidly changing climate are already visible, ranging from resource scarcity perpetuated by irregular droughts and floods to electrical costs from power grids that fail to withstand extreme weather. A.B. 470 is especially pivotal in controlling this climate catastrophe, because in incentivizing businesses to achieve green certification, California will become more environmentally sustainable within commercial sectors. Furthermore, passing A.B. 470 would increase collaboration between local and state governments thereby improving the efficacy of conservation efforts. Ultimately, it would establish California as a leading state in government-led environmental initiatives to reduce carbon outputs and greenhouse gas emissions.

Youth Perspective on Climate Change

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 from the DOD, which has historically been a large fossil fuel emitter.

Over the past year alone, we have witnessed the devastating impact of wildfires exacerbated by climate change burning throughout our state. Watching the far-reaching implications of climate change destroy families and communities has illuminated the dire need for legislation that assuages such concerns. Beyond this, even the preventative power outages by PG&E have opened our eyes to the urgency of climate change and the necessity for environmental reform.

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

As Pope Francis's rhetoric urges, we must applaud businesses that are working to reduce their environmentally-detrimental practices, despite the government not following suit. Above all, we must continue to advocate for what is morally just rather than blindly supporting profit driven incentives.

