



State of California

LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

April 22, 2015

Pedro Nava
Chairman

Loren Kaye
Vice Chairman

Katcho Achadjian
Assemblymember

David Beier

Anthony Cannella
Senator

Jack Flanigan

Don Perata

Sebastian Ridley-Thomas
Assemblymember

Richard Roth
Senator

David A. Schwarz

Jonathan Shapiro

Sumi Sousa

Carole D'Elia
Executive Director

The Honorable Richard Gordon
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3013
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 1482

Dear Assemblymember Gordon,

The Little Hoover Commission supports Senate Bill 1482, the measure you have authored that would expand the duties of the Strategic Growth Council to include climate change adaptation and require the Natural Resources Agency and the council to address the impacts of climate change and climate adaptation by reviewing and coordinating existing grants and programs. The Commission supports this measure based on recommendations the Commission made in its July 2014 report, *Governing California Through Climate Change*.

In its 2014 report, the Commission found California's state government has no single-stop administrative structure in place to govern the state's response to climate change impacts. Many state adaptation initiatives continue to be scattered among individual departments, agencies, commissions and councils, and remain advisory in nature. The Commission also found there is no single authoritative source of standardized information about climate risks in California currently within state government. Cities, counties, regional governing agencies and even the state lack reliable, consistent information to guide decision-making, particularly regarding long-range infrastructure investments and land-use choices.

The Commission stressed the need for a more unified approach to guide California's climate change adaptation efforts. The Commission recommended establishing an authoritative statewide source for coordinating climate adaptation planning, action and education. A single reliable source of standardized information could create conditions for better responses at all levels of California government. The Commission further recommended to expand the focus of the Strategic Growth Council beyond mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions to include a greater emphasis on climate adaptation. The Commission found the council's expanded focus on climate impacts and adaptation would help balance state growth policies with those of climate adaptation.

Assembly Bill 1482 would implement the Commission's recommendations and as a result, the Commission supports this measure.

We are happy to work with you and offer our support as this bill moves through the legislative process. If you have any questions, or if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Carole D'Elia
Executive Director

c: Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission