

July 3rd, 2024

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Room 7620
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1420 (Caballero) – Hydrogen– Support

Dear Senator Caballero:

The South Orange County Economic Coalition (SOCEC) is writing to express our support for SB 1420. This bill will set a statewide standard for the use of clean hydrogen in transportation and intends to improve the permitting process for applicable hydrogen production projects. We are pleased to support SB 1420's direction and respectfully request amendments.

California's 2022 Scoping Plan Update calls for scaling up hydrogen capacity 1,700 times the amount of current supply by 2045. Developing the [Hydrogen Economy Of the Future](#) will allow for the decarbonization of hard-to-electrify sectors, including power generation, heavy-duty transport and goods movement, and industrial uses. These are important sectors of California's economy that must be part of the clean energy transition. Scaling up clean hydrogen production would reduce CO₂ emissions and improve air quality.

As an organization, we strongly support legislation promoting business and economic growth, and we have a responsibility to advocate for the interests of businesses in our region. This bill would bring more hydrogen projects to California, and the streamlining of the permitting process will help business to be conducted smoothly and efficiently. Thus, it would enable South Orange County businesses to participate and play a crucial role in California's broader mission to transition to clean energy.

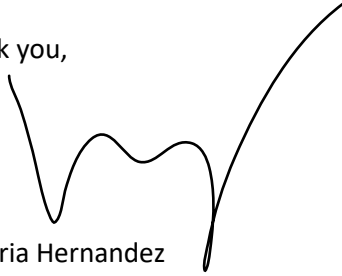
Our organization also supports legislation that prioritizes the environment while considering how this prioritization can affect businesses and economic growth. This bill helps to create a scenario in which the interests of both the environment and the economy are taken into account, and one in which both can prosper.

The U.S. Department of Energy recently [selected California to receive up to \\$1.2 billion for the ARCHES hydrogen hub](#) – a historic milestone in the state's efforts to meet our climate goals, cut pollution, and expand the clean energy economy. We must work swiftly to ensure that clean hydrogen's addition to the state's clean energy portfolio can keep pace with the remarkable progress we have made with other renewables, like solar and wind.

While the bill intends to improve the permitting process for applicable hydrogen production projects, we think more can be done.

Proactive development of clean hydrogen's production and delivery is *a must* for the California hydrogen economy to become sustainable and affordable for the end-user.

Thank you,



Victoria Hernandez

Executive Director

South Orange County Economic Coalition