



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

August 5, 2021

The Honorable Doris Matsui
U.S. House of Representatives
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cory A. Booker
U.S. Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for the TREES Act of 2021

Dear Representative Matsui and Senator Booker:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of the Trees for Residential Energy and Economic Savings (TREES) Act of 2021. This legislation would help advance the City's goals for environmental sustainability by establishing a multiyear nationwide tree planting program.

In 2019, State grant programs enabled the City to launch tree planting programs to provide Long Beach residents free trees. Through these programs, residents can participate in neighborhood tree planting events throughout the City or individually request a tree for their homes. Individual residents can request a street tree to be planted in their parkway and/or a fruit tree to be planted in their front yard. Trees planted through these programs support the growth of Long Beach's urban forest, address local air pollution, sequester carbon, and provide a source of fresh produce to our residents. Additionally, these trees result in energy savings for our residents by reducing the need for air conditioning and heating. The TREES Act of 2021 would help sustain these benefits and increase the reach of these programs.

The City has also prepared a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), incorporating feedback from nearly 60 outreach events with more than 10,000 community members. The CAAP outlines the City's priorities to create an inclusive and equitable plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, prepare the community for the impacts of climate change, improve the quality of life, and enhance economic vitality in Long Beach. The CAAP prioritizes expanding urban forest growth and vegetation to mitigate urban heat island conditions, lower temperatures, and provide shade and evaporative cooling. This is important because extreme heat is projected to increase in Long Beach, leading to an intensified urban heat island effect, which could exacerbate heat-related illnesses and infrastructure deterioration.

The TREES Act of 2021 will help increase the number of trees in the country to reduce energy consumption, further advancing the City's sustainability goals. The City supports legislation that increases funding for climate mitigation and adaptation. Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports the TREES Act of 2021.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Senator Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Senator Alex Padilla
The Honorable Congressmember Nanette Barragan, 44th District
The Honorable Congressmember Alan Lowenthal, 47th District

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