

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

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AND LINDSEY P. HORVATH

Supporting the Senate Bill S. 4189 (Butler) Youth Climate Leadership Act

Today’s youth are already living with the continuing consequences of multi-generational pollution of our planet, and will one day lead the charge in restoring, conserving, and protecting our environment. To make equitable, inclusive change it is critical to empower and include youth voices in addressing environmental justice, climate change mitigation and resiliency, and pollution reduction. Youth are rights bearing citizens and have the right to participate in decision-making that affects them and their future.

Senate Bill S. 4189 authored by Senator Laphonza Butler (D-CA) creates structured avenues for youth engagement at the federal level and will help harness the energy, innovation, and commitment of young people to drive forward comprehensive and inclusive solutions across the nation. The bill would create youth advisory councils within five major federal agencies: the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Interior, Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture, and Department of

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Commerce with 15 - 26 youth members each that are ages 16 to 29 years of age.

Positive youth development is a model that has proven to be effective in creating impactful youth engagement and is the structure that is represented by youth advisory councils. Engaging youth as agents of change for a sustainable future has become more common over the past few years as more local, federal, and international organizations have emphasized the essential role of youth as environmental stakeholders. Los Angeles County has already been implementing this model by establishing the Youth Commission, Youth Climate Commission, and Department of Public Health's Youth Advisory Council. Federally, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has already established their own Youth Advisory Council which would be codified by S.4189.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office- Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch (CEO-LAIR) to support Senate Bill S. 4189 (Butler) and similar proposals that uplift youth voices; and encourage state and federal elected representatives to create bodies like the Los Angeles County Youth Climate Commission (YCC) that elevates youth voices in environmental justice and climate change policy development and implementation.

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