**[Please put this letter on your organization’s letterhead and submit to** [**https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/**](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)**]**

**[Date]**

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez

California State Assembly

1021 O Street, Room 5320

Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: ACR 109 (Gonzalez): State Response to Extreme Heat - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblywoman Gonzalez:

On behalf of **[your organization]**, I am writing in support of ACR 109 (Gonzalez), which would affirm the Legislature’s recognition of extreme heat as a serious and urgent threat, and call upon California’s public agencies and departments to invest resources in building resilience to extreme heat with prioritization given to the most at-risk and vulnerable communities.

**[Describe your organization and your organization’s specific interest in this bill.]**

Extreme heat events have devastating impacts. Recent studies suggest that the number of likely heat-related deaths in the country are close to 5,600 on average per year. Certain industries are particularly vulnerable, with 20 times more farmworkers dying from extreme heat than workers in other industries.

Workers in both outdoor and indoor workplaces also suffer from heat-related illnesses, which can result not only in lasting health issues, but lost wages and high medical bills. The bottom 20 percent of the lowest paid workers in the state suffer five times as many heat-related illnesses as those who are among the top 20 percent of the highest paid workers. Lower income communities and communities of color are also often located in the hottest neighborhoods in cities across the country, and face compounding risk factors, including being less likely to have health insurance, and being less likely to have adequate in-home cooling.

California’s Fourth Climate Assessment predicts that even if greenhouse gas emissions are reduced at a moderate rate, the statewide increased temperatures are expected to translate to up to 4,300 excess deaths in 2025 and up to 11,300 in 2050.

While investments are being made to mitigate sea level rise, wildfires, and other climate-related events, the state is not yet taking sufficient immediate and ambitious action to strengthen its resilience to extreme heat and protect those most vulnerable. Solutions to mitigate these impacts do exist though, and include nature-based solutions such as increased urban forestry and vegetation in urban areas. ACR 109 elevates the discussion and importance of the threat of extreme heat to Californians for both the Legislature and state agencies, in addition to highlighting existing nature-based solutions.

**[Your organization]** strongly supports ACR 109.

Sincerely,

**Name**

**Title**

**Organization**