

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON



Climate Change Policies

SENATOR HENRY STERN, CHAIR

August 29, 2023 Informational Hearing:

Maximizing and Implementing the Inflation Reduction Act: California's \$180 Billion Dollar Climate Funding Challenge

Panelists Biographies

Rachel Ehlers, Deputy Legislative Analyst, Environment and Transportation. Rachel is the Deputy Legislative Analyst for Environment and Transportation at the California Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO). Ms. Ehlers joined the LAO in 2005 and since then has worked in a number of different policy areas, including climate adaptation, water, wildlife and conservation, coastal management, child care, and K-12 education. She currently helps support and manage the team of LAO analysts working on environmental, transportation, and climate change issues. She was the project manager for the LAO's April 2022 series of reports, *Climate Change Impacts Across California*. This series contains five reports that discuss how climate change will impact specific sectors—Housing, Health, Transportation, Workers and Employers, and K-12 Education—along with a sixth report that highlights issues and themes that cut across all policy areas. Ms. Ehlers holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Harvard University.

Gayle Miller, Senior Advisor to the Governor; Chief Deputy Director, Policy, Department of Finance. Gayle was appointed Chief Deputy of Policy at the California Department of Finance by Governor Newsom in 2019. Currently, she also serves as Senior Advisor to the Governor on federal funding implementation. Gayle had previously served as a senior policy advisor for the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration and deputy controller, director of policy in the Office of the State Controller. She also served as a principal consultant in the Office of the California State Senate President pro Tempore in addition to holding several positions in the California State Senate. Gayle earned a Master of Business Administration degree in strategy and communications from the University of California, Berkeley and a Master of Business Administration degree in economics and finance from Columbia University.

Tyson Eckerle, Senior Advisor for Clean Infrastructure and Mobility, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development. Tyson serves as the Senior Advisor for Clean Infrastructure and Mobility in the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). In this role, he leads a team focused on scaling the zero emission vehicle market and clean infrastructure by organizing stakeholder efforts to remove market barriers, create opportunities, and streamline development. Prior to

joining GO-Biz, Tyson served as Executive Director of Energy Independence Now, a non-profit dedicated to action-oriented solutions to petroleum dependence and climate change. Tyson holds a B.A. in Biology from the University of California, Davis and a Master of Environmental Science and Management from the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management from UC Santa Barbara.

Arnab Pal, Principal Advisor & Consultant, U.S. Department of Energy. Arnab currently serves as the principal advisor & consultant (CONTR) to Director Jigar Shah and the Loan Program Office at the U.S. DOE. He was previously a senior staffer in the U.S. Senate where he helped negotiate key energy and climate provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act. In addition to his federal work, Arnab has developed and executed over \$1B in decarbonization programs for California with the Center for Sustainable Energy, and has also served as a principal resource planner for San Diego Gas and Electric.

Merrian Borgeson, Director, California Policy, Climate & Clean Energy Program, Natural Resources Defense Council. Merrian champions stronger climate policies by providing analysis and strategic guidance to help us shift to efficient, renewable energy. She works closely with policymakers and stakeholders at the state, regional, and national levels. Prior to joining NRDC, she worked as a team leader at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. She holds a bachelor's degree from Stanford University, a master's from the University of California, Berkeley, Energy and Resources Group, and an MBA from Berkeley's Haas School of Business. She is based in San Francisco.

Cisco DeVries, CEO, OhmConnect. Cisco currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of OhmConnect. Cisco's passion lies in solving big problems. He led policy changes that enabled infill housing, created a financial product that is helping democratize access to clean energy, put \$2 billion of private capital to work on energy efficiency and rooftop solar, and now is leading the charge to create a dynamic electric grid that supports 100% clean energy. Prior to OhmConnect, he co-founded and led Renew Financial, served as Chief of Staff to the Mayor of Berkeley and was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve in the U.S. Departments of Transportation and Energy. Cisco lives in the San Francisco Bay Area where he can often be found watching his kids play baseball. He once joked to a reporter that he was a capitalist hippie and will probably never live that down.

Hudson Gilmer, CEO, LineVision. Hudson is the co-founder and CEO at LineVision, bringing over a decade of experience in developing innovative data and analytics solutions for the energy industry. With a passion for improving power grids worldwide, Hudson leads a dedicated team focused on harnessing advanced sensors and analytics to improve grid efficiency and resilience. Hudson has an MBA from MIT's Sloan School of Business and resides in Winchester, MA.

Zach Lou, Coalition Director, California Green New Deal Coalition. Zach is the Coalition Director for the California Green New Deal Coalition, a coalition of over 80 community, environmental justice, labor, and climate organizations across California fighting for a clean and just economy. Before joining the coalition, Zach worked at the California Workforce Development Board on the High Road Training Partnership program promoting the state's goals to develop a high road, low carbon economy workforce. He was also the lead author of the *Resilience Before Disaster* report in partnership with the Asian Pacific Environmental Network, SEIU, and BlueGreen Alliance, which developed a framework for models of community resilience hubs and in-home resilience.