

# Natural Resources Defense Council (Jo Gardias)

Feb. 17 Coalition Letter Asking for a More Ambitious Natural Gas Climate Credit Transition



Governor Gavin Newsom  
 1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Pro Tem Monique Limón  
 1021 O Street, Suite 8518  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Speaker Robert Rivas  
 1021 O Street, Suite 8330  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

February 17, 2026

Dear Governor Newsom, Pro Tem Limón and Speaker Rivas:

California is about to delay an opportunity to decrease high electricity bills.

Last year's Cap-and-Invest (C&I) extension, [AB 1207 \(Irwin\)](#), required the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to design the program in a way that equitably "transitions

support from gas corporations to electrical distribution utilities... on or before January 1, 2031” while minimizing ratepayers impacts and encouraging early climate action.

CARB's proposed C&I amendments transition the natural gas credit to electricity bills between 2029 through 2036.<sup>1</sup> This means the transition would finish 5 years after the date required by AB 1207.

This is a missed opportunity to address California's electricity prices, which are increasing fastest [in the nation above inflation](#) due to wildfire-related spending. [Californians who are impacted by high electricity bills](#) are disproportionately low-income, and dependent on air conditioning due to living inland.

A faster transition of the natural gas climate credit to electric would reduce California's problem of inequitable electricity bills, while maintaining progress on deploying zero-emission vehicles as the federal administration attacks our leadership. As the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) initiates its process to maximize the benefits for utility customers during this electricity affordability crisis, we stand ready to support CARB in opportunities to promptly improve the impact and equity of the climate credit.

California should sustain its promise to deliver [“the biggest electricity bill refunds in a decade”](#) by increasing the near-term electric climate credit.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> [CARB, “C&I Initial Statement of Reasons,” \(2025\)](#), pg. 51; CARB, [“Appendix A-1: Proposed Regulation Order.” \(2025\)](#), pg. 242.

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