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March 24, 2014

The Honorable Wesley Chesbro
Chair, Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1970 (Gordon) Community Investment and Innovation Program
NOTICE OF SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Chesbro,

The League of California Cities supports AB 1970 (Gordon), which would create the Community Investment and Innovation Program and allocate monies to local governments for grants and other financial assistance to develop and implement greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction projects.

Local governments are instrumental to meeting state climate and energy goals. As the closest level of government to Californians, we are able to make a significant impact by taking action in our communities and promoting public awareness. Local leadership enables cities, counties and special districts to work together with a number of partners to initiate projects that target the biggest GHG reductions, promote energy efficiency and water use efficiency, and create jobs, all of which will spur local economies as well as the state's economy.

Due to the continued economic downturn the budgets of many local governments have been strained, preventing projects from being funded or completed. We believe a program that dedicates funds for local governments to implement GHG reducing projects will best serve the state in its quest to achieve the goals set forth by AB 32. We agree that funding should be used to support both innovative projects that create new systems or technologies as well as implementation of existing projects proven to reduce or sequester GHG emissions.

The League is pleased to support AB 1970 as it creates a program to support local governments as they work to deliver GHG reducing, energy efficiency improving projects that will create jobs and improve the economy. If you have any questions regarding the League's position on this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 658-8264.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Rhine".

Jason Rhine
Legislative Representative

cc: Assembly Member Richard Gordon
Chair and Members, Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
Lawrence Lingbloom, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
John Kennedy, Principal Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus