



SIERRA CLUB
TOIYABE CHAPTER

TO: Senate Committee on Growth and Infrastructure
FROM: Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club
RE: SB168 Opposition
DATE: April 3, 2019

The Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, on behalf of our more than 30,000 members and supporters in Nevada, strongly opposes SB168.

We are grateful to the sponsors for considering these issues as energy efficiency plays an important part in transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Unfortunately, SB168 takes us in the opposite direction from where we need to go.

Rolling back energy efficiency requirements to 2009 standards saves developers money. But homes built upon these standards use more energy because they're less efficient. Home owners will end up paying more money for this lost energy over time, especially those who use natural gas for heat. Lower standards would also require larger renewable energy installations to make up for the lost energy—an unnecessary waste of cost and resources.

Those who receive renewable energy systems by subscription service would end up paying unnecessarily for energy they wouldn't need if their homes were insulated better.

Homes with more efficient thermal envelopes use less energy to heat and cool; they reduce energy demand during peak hours (which multiplies significantly over thousands of homes); they're more comfortable; and they require smaller renewable energy systems to power them—an overall win for everyone.

The best solution is to reduce demand for fossil fuels by combining efficiency with renewable energy—not trading one against the other. Rather than considering energy efficiency short cuts that benefit only home builders, we encourage our construction industries to move toward Net-Zero standards, homes that are so well-insulated and designed, they produce as much energy as they consume, and do so being carbon-free while considering the full life-cycle of materials and costs for home construction, operation and maintenance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brian Beffort
Director, Toiyabe Chapter