



February 27, 2019

The Honorable Laura Friedman
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol, Room 2137
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 65 (Petrie-Norris)-SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Friedman,

On behalf of Azul, I am writing to express support for AB 65 (Petrie-Norris), which would direct the State Coastal Conservancy to prioritize natural infrastructure solutions when administering Proposition 68 climate adaptation funds.

Azul is an environmental and environmental equity organization working to bring Latinxs perspectives and participation to ocean conservation and protection of coastal resources and marine life. As the only ocean conservation organization in the country that focuses specifically on working with Latinxs, we understand that the environment is a key concern for Latinx communities, that preserving the coasts and oceans is a key element of a healthy environment, and that we still need to make sure beach access is a reality for all Californians. To achieve this, Azul works with communities, regulators and decision makers to promote these ideals whenever possible.

Our organization was a strong supporter of Proposition 68 and the investments it made to assist coastal communities with adapting to the impacts of climate change. These communities are reliant on coastal resources for their livelihoods and adaptation to the growing threat of ocean acidification and sea level rise is imperative. We are pleased to see AB 65 take adaptation a step further by encouraging natural solutions that provide multiple benefits. By doing this, this bill would help ensure that as the state makes investments in building coastal communities' resiliency to climate change, it does so in the most thoughtful and sustainable way possible.

Azul applauds Assemblymember Petrie-Norris' leadership in promoting the use of natural infrastructure in climate adaptation along the coast, and we respectfully request your support when the bill is heard in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

Sincerely,

Marcela Gutierrez-Graudins
Founder and Director
Azul

CC: The Honorable Members of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris