



Climate Strategy Report Letter from STAB

STAB Technical Consultant Presentation

Advisory Board Meeting
December 3, 2025



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Advisory Board Letters for Climate Strategy Report

Both the Advisory Board and the STAB have the opportunity to write a letter for inclusion in the Final Draft Climate Strategy Report, authored by the Chair of each board

Members of each board have expressed interest in understanding the content of the planned message that the other board will convey in their letter

I am here to share the themes of the STAB Chair's planned letter, and hear the Advisory Board's discussion, which I can share with the STAB during their meeting tomorrow

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STAB Letter – Framing & Objectives

1. Acknowledge and Recognize Extensive Development Process
2. Focus on Forward-Looking input from STAB
3. Summary of Technical Review Process
4. Highlight Key Findings Relevant to Decision-Makers

Identification of **compliance risks based in technical review findings** to support development of risk mitigation strategies

Emphasize **importance of ongoing visibility and stakeholder representation**, via expert board engagement, during development of follow-on actions and policies

Note **importance of laying the groundwork for long-term strategies** with relatively long lead times between policy action and emissions reductions

STAB Letter – Buildings & Electricity Sectors

Buildings

- **Accelerating heat pump adoption** is a central tenant to all targets
 - BAU modeling assumptions need to be clearer about trajectory and policies
- **Biodiesel Blending Requirement**
 - *Importance of enforcement* - model assumes perfect implementation, but enforcement key to reducing emissions
 - *Risk related to GHG accounting* - current scientific consensus is non-zero GHG lifecycle emissions, contrary to RI's current zero emissions assumption (a common practice, esp. historically)

Electricity

- **Reliance on RES/RECs**
 - Regional policy exposure
 - Emissions leakage
 - GHG accounting risks
- **Limited Attention to Distributed Generation and Energy Efficiency**
 - EE a central resource in all scenarios, at risk due to 2026 plan's budget cut
 - Mainly captured in PLEXOS modeling; limited focus on in-state DG policies
 - Real emissions benefits even when RECs meet 100% RES requirement

STAB Letter – Transportation Sector

Advanced Clean Cars II / Advanced Clean Trucks

- Heavily featured in 2030 compliance attainment
- Significant uncertainties exist about **when and if this policy can be implemented**
- Modeling assumes 2026, and perfect compliance. Does not meaningfully explore alternative options despite noted policy uncertainty.

Other Strategies

- Modeling of other transportation strategies, by a third-party consultant, was inherently **constrained by application of presumed budget constraints or reliance on existing funding levels** to inform the ambition and scope, likely failing to identify potential additional emissions reductions
- STAB Consultant Team review identified **unexplored opportunities to support near-term transportation reductions** through enhanced incentives, charging infrastructure support (e.g., at multi-family dwellings), and/or more comprehensive land use change

STAB Letter – Conclusions



Importance of recognizing and **responding to the implementation & compliance risks** associated with technical review findings



Critical to **maintain awareness of strengths, limitations, and assumptions** used in modeling when developing follow-on implementation actions or policies



Prioritization will be critical - one pathway might be to seek opportunities where resilience and climate strategies overlap



Refinement of specific quantitative estimates (savings and costs) for decarbonization pathways will likely add value when **RI-specific, detailed proposals are developed** - engage experts from agencies and boards like STAB, AB, EEC, and others to support

STAB Letter – Final Adjustments

- **These changes will be presented to the STAB tomorrow**, based on technical review conducted after a detailed outline was distributed for member review
- Acknowledge and support the Executive Summary's **emphasis on uncertainty** and the need for RI to continue to pursue decarbonization targets in a shifting landscape
- Add reference to the **GHG inventory update** as an additional factor highlighting the need for continued attention on strategies to mitigate risk and position RI for success
- Add reference to the **STAB's intention to conduct a final technical review once full report is released**, and make the outcomes of that available through STAB meetings in 2026 to inform discussions of appropriate near-term actions for RI to consider
 - Position HP BAU policy question as an example of the outstanding questions we are hoping will be fully addressed in final report and technical appendix

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Questions?



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