March 30th, 2023

The Honorable Tom Umberg
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 3240
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 253 (Wiener) Climate Corporate Data Accountability Act – Support

Dear Chair Allen,

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA), one of the state’s foremost grassroots senior and disability advocacy organizations, representing over 1 million Californians, is proud to support SB 253 (Wiener), which would require all US-based corporations with annual gross revenues of $1 billion USD or greater that do business in California to publicly disclose their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory each year in a manner easily understandable and accessible to the people of California.

The America’s Health Rankings United Health Foundation, Public Health Impact: Air Pollution, Annual Report 2017-2019 list California as the “Least-healthy State in our union. The C2ES, Center For Climate And Energy Solutions, reported that in 2020, five of the six largest fires on record burned in California and Oregon. Note California saw five of its largest wildfires in history in 2020. Climate change has proven to be an increasingly crucial component in the duration and risk of wildfires.

Covid-19 has gravely increased health risk resulting from wildfires, air pollution and corporate emissions, putting individuals with respiratory and cardiovascular health concerns at a greater risk. Having an even greater impact on many of the most vulnerable members of our state.

SB 253 requires the development and adoption of regulations requiring publicly traded domestic and foreign corporations with annual revenues in excess of $1,000,000,000 that do business in California to report their greenhouse gas emissions and science-based emissions targets. These companies are required to provide reports in a manner that is easily understandable and accessible to residents of the state of California, including, but not limited to, by making that information available on a widely available digital platform. The bill would also require covered entities to ensure that their public disclosures have been independently verified by a third-party auditor, approved by the state board, with expertise in greenhouse gas emissions accounting.
Affording seniors viable resources to age with grace, dignity and independence - such as protecting our communities from the perils of climate change - not only represent CARA’s foundational principles but we believe will ensure a healthier, more accessible and inclusive California for our aging community.

Please vote YES on SB 253.

Sincerely,

Hene Kelly
Chair, Legislative Committee
California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA)

Keith Umemoto
Co-Chair, Legislative Committee
California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA)