MAJORITY LEADER HERTZBERG TO LEAD DELEGATION STUDYING CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS

Bi-Partisan Group to Examine Best Practices in Switzerland and France on Zero-Carbon Energy, Workforce Transition, Climate Health Issues

SACRAMENTO – Next week, Senate Majority Leader Bob Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys) will lead a bipartisan delegation to Europe to study how the Swiss and French are building carbon-free energy infrastructure, including pumped-storage hydropower, carbon capture technology, and hydrogen gas projects.

The research tour is organized by the California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy (CFEE), and the delegation is made up of state legislators, environmental and labor leaders, business executives, and public policy experts. No taxpayer funds are used.

"In order to meet our state's aggressive climate targets, we need to seek out cutting-edge climate strategies," said Sen. Hertzberg. "Switzerland and France are constructing innovative energy projects that will drive down carbon emissions. As a global leader, we must learn what we can from these countries, and determine if these approaches could be utilized at home or elsewhere around the globe."

Sen. Hertzberg is an acknowledged leader in the field of renewable energy, having taken a decade out of public service to become a global clean-energy entrepreneur. He helped create one of the first solar manufacturing companies in Los Angeles, and co-launched a company that produced inexpensive, lightweight solar panels for use around the world. In recognition of his clean energy efforts in Rwanda, he received the "World Bank Award for Lighting Africa," and the *Guardian Magazine* named him one of the "50 People Who Could Save the Planet." As a legislator, he's used his deep understanding of the issues to develop smart public policy that has pushed California to the forefront of a global energy solutions.

With the passage of SB100 and a 2018 executive order, California is seeking to become a carbon-neutral society by 2045. This will entail the deployment of energy projects that can help transition the state to a cleaner economy while ensuring energy remains affordable and available.

"To achieve our ambitious climate goals without breaking the bank, California will be compelled to explore all of its options," said CFEE President & CEO Jay Hansen, "Whether that's pumped storage projects that act as massive batteries, or 'power-to-gas' processes that produce a hydrogen/carbon dioxide fuel blend that can reduce dependence on natural gas, our delegation will see these technologies firsthand to evaluate their role in the future of our energy system."

Hansen added, "We'll also see a demonstration of the world's first commercially viable direct-air capture facility, which is sucking carbon dioxide directly out of the air and recycling it for other uses and underground storage. Another remarkable innovation that we must consider."

The CFEE Study Travel Project, which runs April 13-20, will consist of site visits and demonstrations, along with meetings with elected and appointed officials, energy sector executives, and environmental, labor, and business leaders.

The delegation will also meet with the International Labour Office (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to learn how these United Nations agencies are approaching workforce transition issues and the healthcare challenges stemming from climate change impacts.

"Climate change is a global problem that requires a global response," said Hertzberg. "I'm excited to learn how the ILO and WHO are helping to prepare our workforce for the new clean energy economy, and how they're addressing the consequences for human health and well-being as droughts, famines, heat waves, floods, and wildfires become more commonplace."

"As one of the largest economies in the world, California is a leader on climate issues – but we're not alone." Hansen noted. "We have the ability to consider our actions in concert with the global community. This will lead to greater collaboration and a holistic approach that can leverage the collective might of the world's resources to pursue aggressive yet practical efforts to address climate change."

The group will also make time to visit the Large Hadron Super Collider at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) and learn more about their partnership with Bay Area research facility Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, which is managed by the University of California.

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Majority Leader Bob Hertzberg represents nearly 1 million San Fernando Valley residents of Senate District 18, which includes part of Burbank and the following communities in Los Angeles: Arleta, Granada Hills, Hansen Dam, Lake View Terrace, Mission Hills, North Hills, North Hollywood, part of Northridge, Pacoima, Panorama City, Sherman Oaks, Studio City, part of Sun Valley, Sylmar, Toluca Lake, Valley Glen, Valley Village, Van Nuys, the City of San Fernando and Universal City. See a district map at http://sd18.senate.ca.gov/district. After serving in the Assembly from 1996-2002, including two years as Speaker, Hertzberg invested in

solar, wind and electric-car projects; and worked for structural changes in government through the Think Long Committee of California. Learn more at [www.senate.ca.gov/hertzberg.](http://www.senate.ca.gov/hertzberg)

An independent, nonpartisan, 501(c)3, the California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy has convened state leaders for more than three decades to examine critical issues related to California's environment, with a view toward building consensus around long-term solutions. CFEE's bipartisan forums and study travel projects put a diverse cross-section of California leadership into direct contact with their counterparts around the world. This sharing of views and experiences leads to a broader understanding of complex issues and encourages the exchange of policy and technology ideas while also promoting what makes California special.