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P R E S S R E L E A S E



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Assemblywoman Luz Rivas to Lead Legislative Delegation to Iceland

SACRAMENTO – Today, **Assemblywoman Luz Rivas (D-San Fernando Valley)**, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, will lead a delegation to Iceland to study carbon capture and sequestration techniques, geothermal energy development, and low-impact farming for innovative food products. The delegation will also participate in a “Women Leaders Dialogue” to explore how Iceland advances opportunities for women, and the lessons we can learn from their successes.

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 and key agency officials, environmental and labor leaders, local government and business executives, and public policy experts. No taxpayer funds are used.

“Iceland is blazing a trail at the top of the world,” said **Assemblywoman Luz Rivas**. “Whether it is their pioneering solutions for climate change or their remarkable success in promoting gender equality, Iceland has critical and timely lessons to share with California leaders.”

Assemblywoman Luz Rivas is a MIT-trained engineer and holds a Master’s Degree in Education from Harvard. She has spent her career empowering her community and uplifting women, including founding DIY Girls, a nonprofit that provides enrichment programs focused on encouraging young girls to pursue careers in science, engineering, and technology.

The delegation will tour the recently-opened “Orca” plant that captures 4,000 metric tons of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) every year. After extracting CO₂ directly from the air, Orca pipes the captured molecules to a partner facility, which then liquifies the CO₂ and injects it deep underground, where it will ultimately transform into solid rock. These operations are all powered by carbon-free geothermal energy and is the first of its kind in the world. Of importance, California’s geology has the same potential for similar carbon capture and sequestration projects.

“The clock is ticking, and the science is clear,” said **CFEE President & CEO Jay Hansen**. “We need an all-of-the-above strategy to successfully win the climate change battle. Carbon capture and sequestration will likely be a needed technology to correct the climate mistakes we’ve made.”

Hansen continued, “Like Iceland, California has both abundant renewable energy that can power direct air capture and the ideal geology to store carbon dioxide underground permanently, right back where it came from. Iceland’s present may very well be our future.”

The CFEE Policy Tour, which will run April 9-15, will consist of facility tours as well as meetings with Iceland's elected and appointed officials and senior environmental, labor, business, and community representatives.

The delegation will sit down with women leaders in Reykjavík to spotlight the unique cultural and institutional factors that empower Icelandic women to attain the highest levels of leadership across business, governmental, and civil sectors.

Assemblywoman Luz Rivas noted, "For 12 straight years, the World Economic Forum has selected Iceland as the preeminent country for gender equality. We have a unique occasion to learn from their success so that we can further expand opportunities for women in California."

The group will also meet with business and community leaders and Icelandic government officials to learn about the Arctic nation's strategies for food security as they adapt to the impacts of climate change. Discussion topics will include more efficient water and energy operations, vertical farming in greenhouses, and sustainable fishing practices.

"Iceland is making world-leading progress on food security, climate solutions, and women's empowerment." **Hansen** said. "This Policy Tour will launch a modern conversation between leaders from our state and from Iceland on our shared challenges while we jointly think about the right solutions for our respective communities."

Assemblywoman Luz Rivas proudly represents the 39th Assembly District, which includes the City of Los Angeles communities of Arleta, Lake View Terrace, Granada Hills, Mission Hills, North Hollywood, Pacoima, Sun Valley, Sunland-Tujunga, Sylmar, and the City of San Fernando.

An independent, nonpartisan, 501(c)3, the California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy has convened state leaders for more than four 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 policy travel projects put a diverse cross-section of California leaders 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.

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