

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY
1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE
ALBANY, CA 94706
www.AlbanyCA.org

Dear Senator Padilla,

On behalf of the City of Albany, I am writing in support of Ava Community Energy (Ava's) application for Congressionally Directed Spending for Health-e Communities. As the City's not-for-profit public power agency, Ava is well positioned to help thousands of households with children suffering from asthma across the City of Albany and Alameda County, prioritizing lower income residences. We strongly support its application for funding to identify solutions to this problem by rapidly electrifying kitchens in these households and studying the health impacts.

Lower income households are disproportionately impacted by environmental quality and the impacts of burning fossil fuels. [Recent studies](#) have indicated that gas cooking may be increasing asthma across the country, with up to 13% of asthma cases linked to in-home gas combustion from appliances. This is especially problematic for lower income households living in disadvantaged communities with poor air quality. These families experience higher asthma rates and higher asthma episodes, which cause economic and academic hardships.

The Health-e Communities program would work to identify solutions to this problem by rapidly deploying thousands of induction cooking kitchens into lower income households with children suffering from asthma to determine if clean electric induction cooking results in a significant improvement in patient health. Ava will partner with local healthcare providers, such as hospitals, health clinics and public health agencies to identify families and replace gas with electric induction cooking to improve indoor air quality and reduce asthmatic episodes. The healthcare providers will complete a longitudinal study to follow the patients and determine how the change in indoor air quality improves health outcomes.

Since its formation as a Joint Power Authority in 2016, Ava (formerly East Bay Community Energy) has been a strategic partner to its member agencies in pursuing clean energy and decarbonization initiatives. In particular, Ava is uniquely situated to address this complex, critical matter of ensuring community health through building electrification.

California will need to rapidly shift from fossil fuels to clean electricity to avoid the worst impacts of climate change and to protect our most sensitive communities. Congress should provide Ava and its member agencies the resources it needs to foster this transition. We urge Congress to support this important project during the Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations process.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Miki". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

John Miki
Mayor