

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [commissionstreamlining](#)  
**Subject:** Keep the Commission on the Environment  
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Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force,

As an interested SF-resident and committed environmentalist, I urge the Task Force to reconsider its recommendation that the Commission on the Environment should be an advisory committee only. The Commission on the Environment should remain a governance body included in the City Charter.

San Francisco's environmental leadership has made our city a magnet for green technology companies, sustainable businesses, and climate-focused organizations. This didn't happen by accident—it resulted from consistent policy signals that environmental standards here have teeth and that the city backs its sustainability commitments with institutional power.

The Commission's decision-making authority is part of that signal. Companies making long-term investments in green infrastructure want assurance that San Francisco's environmental policies will remain stable and enforceable. They need to know that the environmental standards they're building toward won't disappear with the next election or budget crisis.

Turning the Commission on the Environment into an advisory Commission sends the opposite message: that environmental policy is negotiable, that commitments can be ignored, and that long-term planning around San Francisco's sustainability goals carries significant risk. This uncertainty will drive green businesses to cities with stronger environmental governance structures.

Additionally, the Commission's grant-making authority has seeded dozens of local green businesses and nonprofit organizations that now contribute to our economy. Many of these organizations started with Commission-approved funding and have grown into significant employers. This economic development function would be lost if the Commission became purely advisory.

Environmental leadership and economic vitality are not competing values, they reinforce each other. Maintaining the Commission's decision-making power protects both our environmental integrity and our economic competitiveness in the green economy.

Please keep the Commission empowered.

Sincerely,

Caroline Koch

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~Caroline Koch

