



June 10, 2013

Diana Dooley
 Secretary
 California Health and Human Services Agency
 1600 Ninth Street, Room 460
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Public Health Organizations’ Support for California’s Clean Fuel Standard

Dear Secretary Dooley:

On behalf of the undersigned California public health and medical organizations and their allies, we are writing to reaffirm our strong support for the state’s clean fuel standard – the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) – as a key pillar of our state’s decisive clean air and climate leadership. We applaud California’s commitment to achieving the LCFS goal of a 10 percent reduction in transportation fuels’ climate pollution by 2020 because of the enormous air quality and public health benefits. However, we are concerned about the oil industry’s active campaign to weaken and undermine this critical clean air law and would like to meet with you to discuss opportunities to promote the health benefits of the LCFS within and outside your agency.

Cleaner fuels and alternatives to oil are critically important to reduce smog and soot pollution. Over 70 percent of smog and soot and approximately 40 percent of climate-forcing greenhouse gas emissions in California are attributed to transportation sources, nearly all of which use petroleum products. Despite decades of progress and clean air leadership, California remains

home to some of the nation's most challenging air quality problems that are largely due to our over-reliance on petroleum fuels.

Approximately 90 percent of Californians live in areas affected by unhealthy air. This air pollution burden endangers the health of California residents, particularly children, the elderly and the millions of residents living with asthma, COPD and other respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. The California Department of Public Health's May 2013 *Asthma in California* surveillance report noted that over \$1 billion was spent on asthma hospitalizations in 2010, with the majority of that expense covered by MediCal and Medicaid. Further, low-income communities and communities of color bear disproportionate burdens due to unhealthy air caused by nearby transportation sources like ports, rail yards and major roadways. American Lung Association in California research has found that our state's dependence on oil contributes to approximately \$15 billion in annual health and economic costs, resulting from traffic pollution-related asthma attacks, heart attacks, emergency room visits, hospitalizations and even premature death.

As a member of the Sustainable Growth Council, you understand the importance of the suite of California policies moving our state toward cleaner and more innovative solutions to curbing harmful transportation emissions. For example, Senate Bill 375 provides a platform for curbing poorly designed urban sprawl that increases traffic and commute times, adds to local and regional pollution burdens and contributes to worsening chronic illness rates. California's landmark Advanced Clean Cars program which cuts greenhouse gas emissions by 34% and smog-forming emissions by 75% from new cars over the next decade, will result in dramatic economic and health savings for Californians. American Lung Association in California research shows the program will avoid up to \$7.2 billion in health and economic costs annually, and result in 190,000 fewer respiratory symptoms, including asthma attacks, and a 70% reduction in heart attacks, strokes and premature deaths from auto pollution. The LCFS is the third leg of this policy structure that will transition California to a clean air and clean transportation future.

The LCFS is driving lower carbon, cleaner fuel choices such as clean electricity, advanced biofuels (including cellulosic ethanol), natural gas and hydrogen. Opponents have tried to make the case through a widely circulated economic study that the LCFS is an unworkable standard that will cost California jobs. However, a May 2013 independent review coordinated by the University of California, Davis found the study flawed in many ways. It found the oil industry's central job-loss projection "implausibly high" and noted that the industry report ignored "health benefits resulting from less and cleaner fuel use (resulting in better air quality)." In reality, this standard is spurring investment in clean alternative fuels and strengthening the economy by supporting thousands of California jobs. There are fuels available today that achieve the program's 2020 goals and hundreds of more clean and efficient fuels and fuel production processes under development and awaiting program approval through the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) process.

A CARB January 2013 report to the state Legislature demonstrates that the LCFS is “moving forward as planned” and “functioning as intended.” The report notes also that regulated parties have over-complied with the standard to date and that ongoing efforts are being made this year to ensure continued success. We are especially pleased to know that this rule is working to prioritize the lowest carbon fuels, including advanced biofuels produced from plants and waste materials that don’t compete with food crops or promote deforestation.

Most importantly, however, the LCFS is a critical effort to improve air quality that will have lasting health benefits for all Californians. We would like to meet with you to discuss ways your agency can promote the LCFS, including public education, media outreach and through your website. Our health and medical organizations stand in strong support of California’s clean fuel standard to protect public health and ensure that California is successful in producing cleaner, healthier and more efficient transportation fuels. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss the role of your agency in the fight to maintain California’s clean air and climate leadership.

Sincerely,

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* For identification purposes only

cc: Edmund G. Brown, Governor, State of California

cc: Mary Nichols, Chair, California Air Resources Board

cc: Ron Chapman, MD, MPH, Director, California Department of Public Health