



California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health



Celebrating 40 years as the political arm of California's environmental movement



September 17, 2013

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 8 (Perea and Skinner) Air Quality and Clean Transportation Investment SUPPORT

Dear Governor Brown:

We are writing on behalf of health and environmental groups throughout California to express our strong support for AB 8 (Perea and Skinner) to reauthorize the state's critical clean air and clean transportation investment programs, the Carl Moyer Program, local diesel reduction programs (AB 923) and the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Fund (AB 118). These programs have provided tremendous environmental and public health benefits since they were originally enacted, and will continue to play a vital role over the next decade. By signing this bill, you will support California's long-term efforts to reduce harmful air pollutants, meet California's greenhouse gas reduction goals and promote cleaner transportation fuels and technologies in communities throughout the state.

Despite decades of progress, California remains home to some of the most polluted areas in America. Over ninety percent of Californians live in areas with unhealthy air according to the American Lung Association's annual State of the Air report. Air pollution triggers asthma attacks and leads to respiratory and heart illnesses, hospitalizations, emergency room visits and even early death. Over 9,000 premature deaths every year in California are linked to polluted air. The health and economic costs of dirty air add up to over \$28 billion per year in just the South Coast and San Joaquin Valley air districts. Children, seniors, low income families and communities of color are most at risk to the health burdens of poor air quality.

Recent analyses by the California Air Resources Board have demonstrated that up to 90% of smog forming pollutants must be cut in the most polluted areas in order to achieve clean air. This level of emission reduction requires a dramatic transition from dirty fuels to cleaner alternatives. Especially given this difficult challenge, incentive programs are critical to complement our regulatory programs. The Carl Moyer and AB 118 programs have yielded tremendous air quality benefits to the state and provided needed assistance to California businesses to modernize fleets and accelerate the transition to a cleaner fuel mix. California simply cannot achieve the dramatic reductions needed under federal air quality requirements without the incentive funding provided by all three programs, Carl Moyer, local diesel reduction programs (AB 923) and AB 118.

The Carl Moyer program reduces emissions from the legacy fleet of diesel engines through early, voluntary upgrades and replacements, resulting in substantial local air quality and health improvements. The Carl Moyer program also includes a focus on diesel risk reduction in disadvantaged communities. To date, over 48,000 dirty engines have been cleaned up or removed and 146,000 tons of smog forming emissions have been reduced through the Carl Moyer program. Additional air quality and health benefits have resulted from the AB 923 funds administered by local air districts.

The AB 118 program supports emerging advanced transportation technologies and fuels, providing immediate emission reductions while supporting development and deployment of clean technologies on the road to commercialization. This successful program has deployed 23,000 advanced clean and alternative fueled vehicles and equipment and made important contributions to achievement of AB 32 goals. AB 118 has provided funding for hydrogen fueling infrastructure necessary to support progress toward commercial fuel cell vehicle deployment in California. Fuel cell vehicles, in addition to other advanced clean vehicles, are necessary to meet federal and state clean air standards, AB 32 goals and to increase energy security.

AB 8 is critical to continuing our state's progress toward meeting state and federal air quality standards, promoting cleaner, healthier communities and attracting green jobs to the state. We urge your signature on AB 8 (Perea and Skinner).

Sincerely,

Bonnie Holmes-Gen
Senior Director, Policy and Advocacy
American Lung Association in California

Andy Katz
Breathe California

Nick Lapis
Californians Against Waste

Justin Malan
California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health

Jena Price
California League of Conservation Voters

Steven T. Kmucha MD JD
President
California Otolaryngology Society

Dave Spath
President
California Public Health Association-North

V. John White
Legislative Director
Clean Power Campaign

Bill Magavern
Policy Director
Coalition for Clean Air

Eric Lerner
US Climate Director
Health Care Without Harm

Diane Bailey
Senior Scientist, Health Program
Natural Resources Defense Council

Erica Morehouse
Staff Attorney
Environmental Defense Fund

Denny Zane
Executive Director
Move LA

George E. Chaux, MD
President
California Thoracic Society (CTS)

Matthew Marsom
VP for Public Health Policy & Advocacy
Public Health Institute

Robert Gould, MD
President, SF-Bay Area Chapter
Physician for Social Responsibility

Luis Ayala
Executive Director
Los Angeles County Medical Association

Harry Wang, MD
President
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Sacramento Chapter

Joel Ervice
Director
**Regional Asthma Management and Prevention
Community Action to fight Asthma**

Michael Kelly, MD, Chair
San Diego Regional Asthma Coalition

Luis Pardo
Executive Director
Workplace Wellness LA

Individual medical professionals

Richard J Jackson MD MPH HonAIA HonASLA Professor/Chair
Former director, CDC National Center for Environmental Health
Former PH Director, California Dept of Public Health.

Karen Jakpor, MD, MPH
Riverside, CA

Al Landucci, DDS
San Mateo, CA

Kari Nadeau, MD, PhD
Stanford, CA

David Pepper, MD
Martinez, CA

Paul M. Quinton, Ph. D.
Nancy Olmsted Professor in Pediatric Pulmonology and Professor of Biomedical Sciences, UCR Dept.
Pediatrics, UC San Diego School of Medicine Rady Children's Hospital

Tamanna Rahman, MPH
Student, DrPH Program - Dept of Environmental Health Sciences
UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

Cindy Russell, MD
Santa Clara, CA

cc: The Honorable Henry Perea
The Honorable Nancy Skinner