



January 8, 2020

The Honorable Ben Hueso
Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities & Communications
California State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: SB 386 (Caballero) - Oppose

Dear Chair Hueso and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the undersigned health organizations, we are writing to express our opposition to SB 386 (Caballero). SB 386 would threaten progress to achieving California's renewable energy goals that were most recently strengthened to achieve 60 percent renewable power by 2030 (per SB 100, 2018; de León).

Californians face the most difficult air pollution challenges in the United States, a challenge made much more difficult due to climate change impacts. The American Lung Association's *State of the Air 2019* report found that climate change is impacting California's clean air progress today in the form of higher temperatures that push more ozone pollution, and catastrophic wildfires that have blanketed California communities in hazardous particle pollution. The clear message is that we must do more, and more quickly to reduce harmful pollution that threatens our air and drives climate impacts. The transition to renewable energy is a critical issue for improving local air quality and confronting climate change threats to public health. This was the basis for dozens of leading California health organizations supporting SB 100 to increase California's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) goal to 60 percent by 2030.

By allowing existing large scale hydro-power projects to count toward the RPS goal in 2030, SB 386 would interfere with achieving 60 percent renewables by 2030. This bill would allow a set of irrigation districts to take credit for existing large hydro-power projects, thereby weakening the signal for procurement of new renewable power sources. The lack of investment in non-hydro renewable sources would increase the risk of a heavier reliance on fossil fuels during drought years. We are deeply concerned that the progress and leadership being shown through California's critical policies to reduce harmful pollution would be undermined by this measure, and because of the precedent it would set for additional utilities to seek similar concessions.

Our organizations are opposed to SB 386 because it would interfere with achieving 2030 RPS goals to increase renewable energy resources and cut harmful pollution.

Sincerely,

Barb Sattler, RN, DrPH, FAA, Founding Member
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Will Barrett, Director, Clean Air Advocacy
American Lung Association in California

Justin Malan, Executive Director
California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health

Cesar Vazquez MD, Past President
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Robyn Rothman, JD
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Linda Rudolph, MD, MPH, Director
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Robert M. Gould, MD, President
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Joel Ervice, Associate Director
Regional Asthma Management and Prevention (RAMP)