



March 12, 2024

The Honorable Isaac Bryan, Chair
Committee on Natural Resources
Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: AB 1894 (Ta), Nonvehicular air pollution: civil penalties - Oppose

Dear Chair Bryan and members of the committee:

The American Lung Association in California writing to oppose Assembly Bill 1894 (Ta) as it would impede air district enforcement of health-protective clean air programs.

California communities face the most difficult air pollution challenges in the nation, with nearly all Californians living in a community impacted by unhealthy levels of ozone and/or particle pollution. Because of this, Californians rely on strong enforcement of air pollution violations to protect health and safety as we continue to make progress in cleaning the air. This is especially true for communities facing increased burdens due to multiple nearby sources of harmful pollution. Whether addressing toxic air contaminants, ozone or particle pollution impacts to public health and health equity, properly enforced air quality standards offer the promise of less pollution and associated health emergencies, cancer risk and premature death.

AB 1894 would restrict air districts' ability to enforce clean air policies by mandating a 30-day enforcement delay to allow small businesses to rectify violations of local air quality protections. This is deeply concerning from a public health perspective, but it is also unnecessary as a practical matter given the air districts currently have discretion to issue a range of responses to an air quality violation – including issuing simple warnings - based on the severity of the violation among other considerations. Further, those found in violation of air quality standards have options available to challenge air district actions if they so choose.

California has made significant progress in cleaning the air through the implementation and enforcement of air pollution controls and this progress must be maintained. The American Lung Association urges you to hold AB 1894 in committee because would interfere with the enforcement of health-protective clean air programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Will Barrett".

Will Barrett
Senior Director, Clean Air Advocacy
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