



June 8, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
Senate President Pro Tempore  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon  
Speaker, California Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Support for AB 617 Community Air Protection Program Implementation Funding**

Dear Governor Newsom, President Pro Tempore Atkins, and Speaker Rendon:

On behalf of the American Lung Association, I am writing in strong support of the Legislative budget proposal to ensure funding is available to support the implementation of Community Air Protection Programs authorized under Assembly Bill 617 (C. Garcia, 2017). We appreciate Governor Newsom's May Revise proposal to place a high priority on the AB 617 incentives and we support the Legislative proposal to direct \$50 million toward air district implementation as critical to ensuring AB 617 benefits are realized.

The American Lung Association's 2020 *State of the Air* report found that 98 percent of Californians live in counties affected by unhealthy levels of ozone and/or particle pollution. Unfortunately, many of our most vulnerable communities bear the greatest burdens of poor air quality due to major, local sources of harmful air pollution in the form of industrial sources, diesel trucks, freight and agricultural equipment, and other sources of harmful air pollution. The impacts of poor air quality range from asthma attacks to heart attacks to lung cancer and premature death, and we know that these burdens are too often concentrated in California's most vulnerable communities. This is the basis for disadvantaged communities being identified for targeted investment through the AB 617 process.

Given the challenges facing the budget this year and the likelihood for scarce resources within the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund structure, we are deeply concerned about gaps and delays in the implementation of more targeted community air monitoring and community emission reduction plans that are central to the AB 617 program. Innovative programs informed by community input and developed in collaborative processes between community members and air districts can serve as important models for community engagement and investment in additional communities, both within and beyond the AB 617 program. As the AB 617 program expands to protect health in additional communities, the investment of Air Pollution Control Fund resources to sustain air district engagement becomes more crucial.

Thank you for considering the American Lung Association's support for the Legislature's proposal to direct \$50 million from the Air Pollution Control Fund for air district AB 617 program implementation. We look forward to working with you to continue progress toward clean air for all Californians.

Sincerely,

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

Will Barrett  
Director of Clean Air Advocacy  
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