



May 5, 2014

The Honorable Kevin de León, Chair
 Senate Appropriations Committee
 State Capitol, Room 2206
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1125 (Pavley/Lara) – 2030 Climate Pollution Reduction Target - Support

Dear Chairman de León and Committee Members:

On behalf of the undersigned health and medical organizations, we are writing to express our support for Senate Bill 1125 (Pavley and Lara). This bill addresses the need for a mid-term climate pollution target and also controls on highly potent, short lived climate pollutants, each key to California's leadership to cut emissions that harm lung health and contribute to climate change.

California's public health community is united in its support for strong action to protect the public and our environment from the worst impacts of climate change. The recent United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report provided a stark analysis of the dire consequences of failure to rapidly reduce climate pollutants. Human health risks associated with climate change include heat-related stress and illnesses, ozone pollution and respiratory health impacts, wildfire risks, vector-borne diseases, flooding and others. We must act now to cut climate pollution today and ensure that we remain committed to climate protection for the long-term. SB 1125 would help California protect its people from the worst impacts of climate change.

SB 1125 would require the California Air Resources Board to, in consultation with the state's Climate Action Team and with public input, develop a 2030 target for reducing greenhouse gases and short lived climate pollutants (e.g., black carbon, methane, ozone). SB 1125 would cut both air pollutants that threaten the health of our most vulnerable citizens today, but also ensure that California remains on track to longer term climate action. Key to the development of this strategy will be the inclusion of

short-lived pollutants that have a significant impact on the climate, but also on health locally. For example, black carbon particles from diesel engine exhaust are potent climate forcing pollutants that also have severe health impacts, particularly on low income communities in close proximity to ports, distribution centers and rail yards and other major pollution hot spots. In addition to protecting disadvantaged communities, SB 1125 also prioritizes advancing California's economy and promoting coordination and collaboration with jurisdictions beyond our borders.

We believe that this bill would set California on a healthy course forward to protect our residents from the worst impacts of climate change. We urge you to move forward with SB 1125 to ensure California's leadership on clean air and climate change continues to reduce pollution and provide near-term health benefits to our most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,

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

Robert Vinetz, MD, FAAP, Co-Chair
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Praveen Buddiga, MD, CEO
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cc: Senator Ricardo Lara