



Dickerson Employee Benefits
Insurance Services

May 8, 2008

Ms. Mary Nichols, Chair
California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Ms. Nichols:

Dickerson Employee Benefits was founded by me over 40 years ago here in Los Angeles. As a small business owner, I have watched my business grow along with the city around us. Add to this that I am the proud grandfather of 5 beautiful grandchildren and, hopefully, you can see I have a vested interest in our city and the environment in which they will be raised.

On behalf of the employees of Dickerson, I am writing to support the goals of AB 32 (The Global Warming Solutions Act) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a balanced, cost-effective way.

While we support AB 32 and recognize the benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, we are very concerned about the potential for greatly increased electricity, natural gas and gasoline costs. Our employees trust me and my management team to work hard and responsibly to ensure their continued healthy financial livelihood. If implemented incorrectly AB 32 could mean billions more in higher gasoline and utility bills. That hurts all consumers, but it will be especially painful to California's low income families and small business owners, like me, who pay a higher percentage of their incomes for energy. Costs will have to be reduced in critical areas, such as staffing, to offset these increases.

We understand that one way your agency is thinking about keeping AB 32 costs down is through a cap and trade program. While it's important to get the details of a program right, our understanding is that cap and trade systems have helped reduce emissions elsewhere in the United States and are being used in Europe too.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns, and please keep our community in mind when deciding how best to implement AB 32.

Sincerely,

Cari Dickerson
President & CEO