Good morning Board Members,

My name is Catherine Lyons and I am representing the Bay Area Council, Jim Wunderman and the business community of the Bay Area region.

I am here to announce our support of the implementation of the California cap-and-trade program--Alternative 2 of the Supplement to the AB32 Scoping Plan—without further costly delays to the California economy and environment.

The Bay Area Council is proud to have been the business group to negotiate and the first business group to support California’s landmark effort to address global climate change, starting in 2006. We are happy to be at this point in the process. Our members are business leaders of some of the region’s largest employers, and they know how much is at stake if we do not take actionable steps toward reducing emissions.

The following reasons compelled the business community to act on this issue:

* California’s momentum to become the center of clean technology innovation would be lost if we backpedal on our commitment to become a clean-energy based economy.
* Investors, manufacturers and workers in California’s clean energy sector face fierce global competition.
* Our partners in emissions trading are moving forward with developing their growing market and need a clear signal from California that would stabilize carbon pricing.

Now, the real work begins, and the business community is committed to ensuring that our state reduces its emissions by the required 15 percent by 2020.

Thank you for your leadership, and we look forward to working with you in the future.