

MEAD AUTOMOTIVE & RV REPAIR
ASE BLUE SEAL OF EXCELLENCE SHOP

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ORIGINAL:
Copies:

Board Clerk
Executive Officer
Chair

CO1270

December 4, 2008

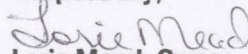
Ms. Mary Nichols
Chair, California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Nichols:

As a small business owner I am very concerned about our economy and my ability to maintain and grow my business. California already imposes FAR TOO MANY taxes on businesses. As a native Californian, I feel it is important to protect our environment, but it must not come at the expense of the economy. I cannot handle another fee!

Like most small businesses, hard times force us to make hard decisions in order to stay afloat. I have already laid off workers after reducing salaries, we cannot offer benefits, but if I am saddled with higher energy costs, additional taxes and fees I will have to make some tough choices, including going out of business. The costs of workers compensation, federal taxes, state taxes, federal, state and local license fees, general liability and vehicle insurance are already ENORMOUS!!! These are the legal minimum requirements BEFORE rent, lights, wages, etc. We are seriously considering going to Arizona or New Mexico. California is killing small business owners such as our vehicle repair shop. As a business owner, I thoroughly understand why large employers leave our country and take the jobs with them. It is very hard to make a profit these days.

When you consider ways to implement California's climate change program, I urge you to put yourself into the shoes of a small business person and take into account our current struggles. Your proposed plan has put forth increased taxes, energy costs, fuel costs, vehicle costs and building costs, all of which will specifically impact our repair shop. Many of the implementation measures you are suggesting require billions of dollars in capital investments and annual operating cost increases. We cannot afford the required upfront investments and do not have several years to see returns on investments. We are a mom & pop operation. I encourage you to adopt a balanced, cost-effective climate change plan that does not impose an impossible burden on small businesses and consumers. By using the most cost-effective strategies to minimize greenhouse gas emissions we can reduce global warming while also protecting California's companies, jobs and the economy.

Respectfully,

Lorie Mead, Owner