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

Dear Ms. Nichols:

It has been brought to my attention that you are in the process of selecting the implementation method for AB32. AB32 is a landmark legislation that will help protect our great State from further Climate Change by forcing our residents and businesses to change their way of life and be greener. I could not be prouder of the work that our Legislators and Governor have done to get this law passed and the vision that your agency has to implement this policy in a sound and just manner. During my term as Mayor I worked diligently to ensure that our City was as green as possible and we assessed our usage as well as what we emitted into the environment and executed several conservation strategies that helped us reduce our energy usage and be voted one of the Greenest Cities in California. As an elected official I am also responsible for the social and economic well being of the residents I serve and ensure that we continue to provide the vital city services that our residents rely on, as well as help maintain their quality of life. We applaud your efforts in implementing this complex policy, but after reviewing the process to implement AB32, we are concerned about the possible effects that the implementation methods you are considering would have on our residents and our already strapped City Budgets.

The goals set forth under AB32 are ambitious, as they should be, but the obvious targets to reduce the 20% by the year 2020 are the sources that provide our communities our electricity and transportation fuels. If these sources are mandated to reduce 20% of the greenhouse gases they emit, what would stop them from passing the costs they incurred to our residents and our City.

We would appreciate seeing a cost analysis for either implementation method that is currently being considering by your agency. If we are able to look at what the costs would be with mandated reduction or a cap and trade program, it would help us better prepare our budgets and our residents for what's to come.

We urge you to please study this process before making a final decision and keep our communities and residents in mind at all times.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

Rick Ramirez
Councilmember, City of Norwalk