

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0021  
(916) 319-2021  
FAX (916) 319-2121

DISTRICT OFFICE  
5050 EL CAMINO REAL, STE. 117  
LOS ALTOS, CA 94022  
(650) 691-2121  
FAX (650) 691-2120

# Assembly California Legislature



COMMITTEES  
CHAIR, BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #3  
- RESOURCES  
BUDGET  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT  
TRANSPORTATION

February 27, 2008

Mary Nichols, Chair  
California Air Resources Board  
P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Chair Nichols:

We are writing to express concern over the allocation of goods movement emission reduction bond funding. We believe that the Bay Area deserves at least 20% of these funds.

In November of 2006, California voters passed Proposition 1B, which allocates \$1 billion to cut emissions from goods movement in California. The Legislature provided guidance to the Air Resources Board (ARB) in last year's Senate Bill 88 (Statutes of 2007; Chapter 181) on the expenditure of these funds. As stated therein:

*It is the intent of the Legislature that the State Board maximize the emission reduction benefits, achieve the earliest possible health risk reduction in heavily impacted communities, and provide incentives for the control of emission sources that contribute to increased health risk in the future.*

Given this direction, and the overwhelming importance of exposure to diesel particulate matter in determining health risk, we were surprised to learn of the regional funding targets suggested by ARB staff. The Bay Area has 22% of the population in the goods movement corridors, and roughly 20% of California's goods movement emissions of oxides of nitrogen and diesel particulate. Furthermore, the fourth largest port in the United States, the Port of Oakland, is located in our region.

But most significantly, per ARB's own data (*The California Almanac of Emissions and Air Quality*), the average person in the Bay Area has a significantly *higher* risk from both diesel particulate and air toxics in general than the average person in the Central Valley. For diesel particulate, this average risk is 23% higher in the Bay Area than in the Central Valley. The Bay Area risk is second only to the risk in the South Coast. But the Bay Area's higher average risk compared to our neighbors to the East becomes greatly magnified when translated into number of people exposed, which is what matters from a public health perspective. Though geographically smaller, the Bay Area has a population roughly *twice* that of the Central Valley. Far more people are subject to a higher level health risk in our region. Despite the higher risk in the Bay Area and the greater population, however, ARB staff targeted only 14% of the funds to the Bay Area, while the Central Valley was targeted for 25% of the funds.

We understand that the Central Valley has formally adopted a resolution urging the ARB to reduce funding to the South Coast and the Bay Area, and to greatly increase funding to their own region. They suggest that Bay Area funding be reduced from the 14% target down to 10%, while their own share increases to 37% of the funds. We cannot disagree more strongly with this request, and fervently urge you to reject it.

Voter support for Proposition 1B was strongest in the Bay Area and the South Coast. We urge you in the strongest possible fashion to not reduce funding. Should you make any change at all, you should increase the Bay Area's regional funding to 20%.

Sincerely,

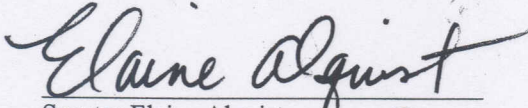
A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Ira Ruskin", is written over a horizontal line.

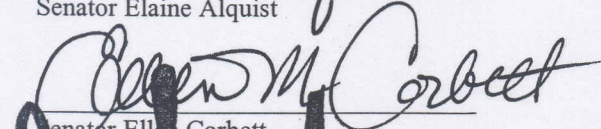
Assemblymember Ira Ruskin

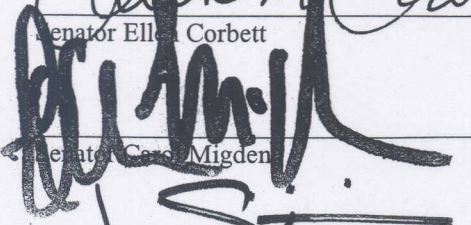
cc: Members, Air Resources Board  
James Goldstene, Executive Officer

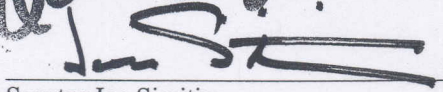
E-mail: [assemblymember.ruskin@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.ruskin@assembly.ca.gov) • Website: [democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a21](http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a21)

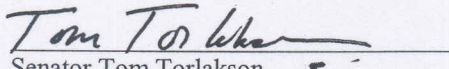


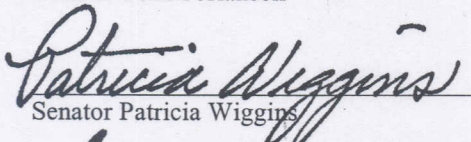
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Elaine Alquist

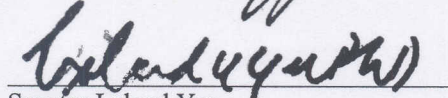
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Ellen Corbett

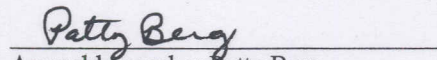
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Carol Migden

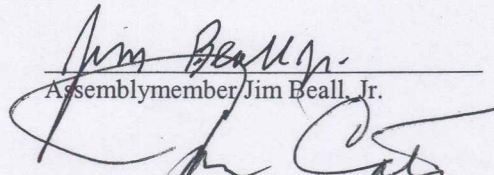
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Joe Simitian

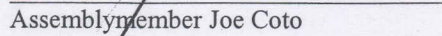
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Tom Torlakson


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Patricia Wiggins

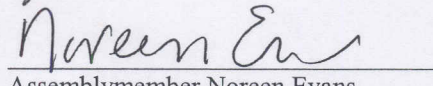
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Leland Yee

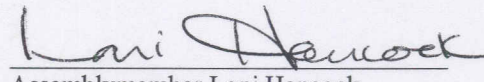
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Patty Berg

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Jim Beall, Jr.

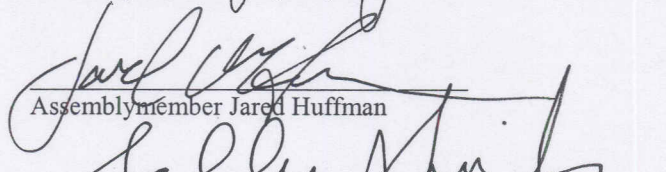
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Joe Coto

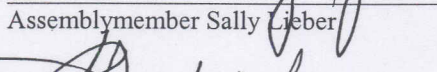
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Mark DeSaulnier

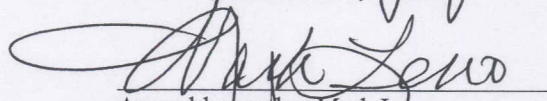
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Noreen Evans

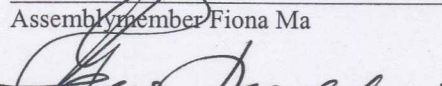
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Loni Hancock

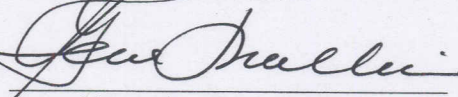
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Mary Hayashi

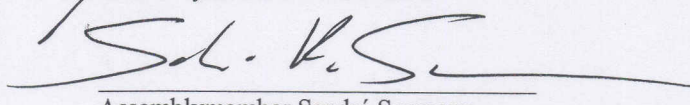
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Jared Huffman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Sally Lieber

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Mark Leno

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Fiona Ma

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Gene Mullin

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Sandré Swanson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Alberto Torrico