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Becky Napier

CHAMBER

February 28, 2008

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KERN COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS

Ms. Mary Nichols
Chairman
California Air Resources Board
1120 N Street, Room 2221
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Proposition 1B Funds: Goods Movement Emission Reduction Program

Dear Ms. Nichols:

On behalf of the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce, which represents over 1,500 California businesses collectively providing over 50,000 jobs, I would like to express our deep concerns with the California Air Resources Board staff's implementation and funding recommendations related to the Proposition 1B Goods Movement Emission Reduction Program.

As you know, CARB staff will be submitting a proposal for the board's approval that would set funding targets based largely on the population sizes of the four identified regions. While using population as an allocation guide is totally acceptable when dealing with certain issues, when it comes to air pollution, the money should go where air quality issues are the most alarming. It makes little sense to divert the majority of funds to Southern California, when the Central Valley's air pollution situation is essentially the same. Therefore, we urge the Board to pursue a per-capita method for determining the regional funding levels.

In the Valley, we currently handle 45% of all the traffic in the four identified corridors. Mobile sources are the greatest source of air pollution in the Valley, and a majority of regional mobile source emissions are linked to the movement of goods through our region. Moreover, throughout the Central Valley – and the State – regulators have worked diligently to reduce the emissions from stationary sources. The Chamber has often disagreed with these legislative and regulatory actions, as we feel they disproportionately and negatively affect the competitiveness of our main industries of petroleum and agriculture production; but standards have been implemented and the Chamber's member businesses have complied. The Valley's air quality issues will not be solved by further crack-downs on stationary sources or through demagoguery of particular industries.

For example, the Kern County town of Arvin, situated near the mountain range that separates the southern tip of the Valley from the Los Angeles Basin, now has the dubious distinction of having the worst air in the country. While Arvin is largely an agricultural community, the town is situated near one of the state's busiest passes for goods and people movement – the Grapevine. Regulators have also acknowledged that pollution from multiple sources "drifts" down the Valley and is trapped in Arvin by the Tehachapi Mountains.

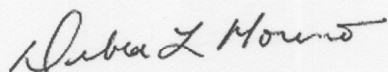
The fact is, the Valley is the state's thoroughfare for moving goods, products, and people to the major markets and destinations of our great state. Therefore, we must do what we can to increase mobility in the Valley as our state grows, and deal with the impacts on our region's air quality as traffic increases.

Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce
Your Partner in Business.

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California's citizens and elected leaders made a great deal of progress when voters overwhelmingly supported the *Strategic Growth Initiative* in 2006, disregarding long standing political and regional conflicts. In that spirit, our sincere hope throughout the implementation processes for Proposition 1B and all of the infrastructure initiatives, is that our state officials demonstrate to the public that solving California's critical problems is more important than political and regional divides and differences.

Sincerely,



Debra L. Moreno
President/CEO
Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce

Cc: San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District