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May 21, 2007

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State Capitol
Room 2013
Sacramento, Ca 95814
Tel. 916-319-2023
Fax 916-319-2123

Dr. Robert F. Sawyer, California
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Sawyer:

This letter concerns an early action item that the Air Resources Board is considering in its historic effort to curb emissions of greenhouse gases, pursuant to last year's Assembly Bill 32. The State of California has an historic opportunity to implement change and stem the potential adverse impacts of global warming.

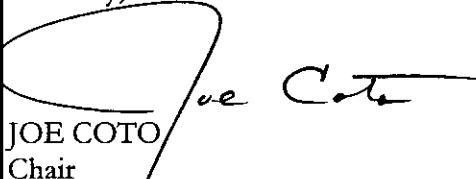
As part of the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 implementation process, the Air Resources Board is currently considering an action to ban or restrict the use of retail refrigerant to recharge leaky automotive air conditioning systems.

We applaud the efforts to date of the Air Resources Board and encourage it to continue advancing measures that will yield cost effective, technologically feasible emissions reductions. However, we caution that these measures must not impose undue economic burden on the state's lower-income population. In particular, we are concerned about one of the early action items that would ban retail sales of automotive air conditioning refrigerant.

To the extent that a possible retail sales ban on automotive refrigerant will disproportionately affect low-income communities who can least afford professional services, we urge you to consider possible regulatory alternatives that will yield similar reductions. We urge measures that will have less impact on the health and safety of our most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you for your efforts to make California a leader in climate change policy.

Sincerely,


JOE COTO
Chair

Cc: Theo Pahos, Kester Pahos Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy
Linda Adams, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency

JC:ms

