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California State Senate

SENATOR
DOUG LA MALFA
FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

December 16, 2010

Mary Nichols, Chairman
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Opposition for Cap-and Trade Program

Dear Chairman Nichols,

I am writing to urge your opposition to the Cap-and-Trade Program that is established by AB 32. This program is unnecessary; it creates onerous regulations on our state's businesses; and it will further depress California's economy.

AB 32, although well-intentioned, creates a solution for a non-existent problem. The theory of anthropogenic global warming is founded on studies and reports that, in recent years, have been confirmed to be inaccurate, misleading, and even fraudulent. I believe that there is enough reasonable doubt regarding climate change to postpone the implementation of the AB 32 mandates, at least until more conclusive science is presented.

Even if global warming was supported by science, your own staff report states that California alone could not prevent it. The AB 32 policies will not produce a significant effect towards combating climate change; instead, a great majority of the world's nations would also have to create, implement, and adhere to strict cap-and-trade programs. The chances of this coalition forming are unlikely, so as California undertakes the solitary mission of cooling the earth, we merely put ourselves at a severe economic disadvantage.

I am skeptical of the ARB's economic analysis of the Cap-and-Trade program, which suggests that there will be very little cost to the overwhelming benefits. However, the authors of the analysis do reluctantly acknowledge that the program will create an adverse economic impact: the gross state product will be reduced; the costs of business will rise; and the economy's recovery will remain stagnant. In order to operate well, our state relies on a thriving business climate. Given California's $26 billion deficit and the 12.4 percent unemployment, our state's economy is not stable enough to implement AB 32's policies—policies that we know will further burden business.

Again, I ask that you reject the cap-and-trade program currently under deliberation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Doug LaMalfa

Senator, Fourth District