

October 14, 2011

Hon. Mary Nichols, Chairman
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Mary,

On October 20, 2011, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) will cast a historic vote on the creation of the largest -- and first-ever -- economy wide carbon market in North America. You and your fellow board members will have an opportunity to steer California and the world in a critical, positive direction towards addressing the economically and environmentally debilitating challenges posed by climate change. Given how much is at stake, from vital air quality improvements to ground-breaking innovations and investments in advanced energy technologies, I strongly urge you to adopt the cap-and-trade regulation as written.

We are at a critical juncture for our environment and the economy. Despite overwhelming evidence of the long-term economic benefits of strong environmental and public health protections, reasonable regulations are under constant attack by polluters and politicians alike. California's leadership in adopting a cap-and-trade regulation will be an important counterbalance against these efforts, and a powerful signal that California's fruitful legacy of environmental leadership will continue.

Environmental Defense Fund, with over 700,000 members nation-wide and 130,000 in California, was an original sponsor of AB32 and remains committed to ensuring California realizes the tremendous environmental and economic benefits that lie ahead. The cap-and-trade regulation slated for consideration next week is an important step toward achieving these benefits.

I urge you and the rest of the Board to adopt the AB32 cap-and-trade regulation.

Yours truly,

