

Bishop Adams  
18-10-7



December 12, 2018

California Air Resources Board Members  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Proposed Cap-and-Trade Price Ceiling**

Dear Honorable Members of the California Air Resources Board,

We are small business owners, faith leaders, farmers, community leaders, and residents across California. We are writing you today to address some of the comments made at the November 15, 2018 meeting.

We all traveled to Sacramento to share our opinion that the Board has not adequately taken into account costs to residents, businesses and the economy when setting the price ceiling for the cap-and-trade program.

During the hearing, we shared our concerns that the price ceiling your staff is proposing and the future impacts it could have on our cost of living.

However, we left the November 15 meeting disappointed. Several of the board members' comments were dismissive to our concerns as if we were confused and in need of a more rudimentary explanation.

But we do understand. We understand that the price ceiling is not currently proposed to be set at a level that will keep costs in check. And we understand what this means to small business and families.

Additionally, we want to address several of the issues that were mentioned by board members and staff to dismiss our concerns.

First, staff implied that we should not be concerned because individual households receive a climate dividend on their natural gas and electricity bills. However, this dividend is given to customers of Investor Owned Utilities (such as PG&E) but not for publicly owned utility customers such as LADWP or SMUD. And even though customers of PG&E, Edison, and SDG&E receive a small credit on their bill twice a year, this does not offset the impact of higher energy costs on small businesses. Energy cost increases place a greater burden on all of us and the overall economy.

This answer also does not take into account the increase cost for fuels. Commutes are long for those of us who do not have the luxury of living near our place of employment. Increases in fuel costs only exacerbate the burden felt by many working Californians.

Board members also attempted to characterize the price ceiling as a far-off, distant future or "worst case scenario". However, this "worst case scenario" is untenable for many, and must be addressed. Dismissing the impacts of this rule because it is "in the future" is irresponsible.

We support cap-and-trade and believe the intent of AB 398 is to set the right balance to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while not overburdening residents, businesses and our economy.

We want to engage in productive dialogue with you. We are the "real world" that some board members jokingly mentioned during the hearing. We encourage the Board to listen and engage us, not dismiss us.

Thank you for your consideration,

African-American Farmers of California  
California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Central Valley Business Federation  
Central Valley Latino Mayors  
Inland Empire Economic Partnership  
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Latin Business Association  
Nisei Farmers League  
Bishop Lovester Adams, CA Missionary Baptist State Convention  
Pastor Oliver Buie, Holman United Methodist  
Pastor R. K. Hayes, CA Missionary Baptist State Convention  
Reverend James Jones, CA Missionary Baptist State Convention  
Reverend Jonathan Moseley, President, National Action Network Los Angeles  
Vivian Mullen Williams, National Action Network Los Angeles  
Jarron Nichols, CA Missionary Baptist State Convention  
Pastor Prentiss Williams, CA Missionary Baptist State Convention  
Raemisha Williams, National Action Network Los Angeles  
Pastor Jack Wilson, Baptist Ministers Conference