

Bonnie Holmes-Cox
15-7-2



Sept. 15, 2015

Mary Nichols, Chairman and Members of the Board
California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, Ca 95812

Re: Health and Medical Support for Low Carbon Fuel Standard

Dear Chairman Nichols and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the undersigned health and medical organizations, we are writing to support the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) leadership on cleaning up transportation fuels and urge re-adoption of the state's health-protective Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS). The ongoing successful implementation of the LCFS is a priority public health issue in California because we need to stop our addiction to fossil fuels for transportation if we are going to slow climate pollution. We urge you to re-adopt California's low carbon fuel standard at the September board hearing to continue California's fight against air pollution and climate change.

California residents face the most difficult air pollution challenges in the nation and California cities and counties top the lists of worst polluted areas in the country. The American Lung Association's 2015 State of the Air report found that over 70 percent of Californians – 28 million residents – live in areas affected by unhealthy air. Petroleum fuels are the main source of smog and soot pollution in our state, as well as the leading source of climate pollution. California residents experience the most serious air quality problems are in the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California areas where the number of bad air days can add up to several months each year.

Climate change driven by our over-reliance on harmful fossil fuels is the greatest threat to public health in this century, exacerbating many of the health challenges and health disparities California is working to eliminate. This year has demonstrated the health risks of climate-related conditions in California, where we have experienced record temperatures, major increases in wildfires and smoke exposure, flooding and the fourth year of extreme drought conditions. In fact, the Lung Association's 2015 *State of the Air* report documented that 25 counties in California had increases in particle pollution due to drought weather conditions.

California's leading climate and clean air policies like the LCFS are critical to fighting off the harms caused by continued combustion of fossil fuels in our transportation sector. Transportation pollution causes or contributes to asthma, heart attacks, cancers, low birth weight and other health consequences that take a major toll on California families. Unhealthy air also leads to thousands of deaths per year in California and costs billions in care and treatment. Research conducted by the American Lung Association in California demonstrates the health benefits from clean air policies like the LCFS will reduce healthcare costs by about \$8 billion by 2025 savings created by 900 fewer premature deaths and 600 fewer heart attacks, 38,000 fewer asthma episodes and 74,000 lost work days.

We must move the LCFS goals forward to 2020 and beyond to reduce the harms caused by dirty transportation fuels and to bring about real, meaningful investment and transition to cleaner alternatives like electricity, hydrogen and cellulosic biofuels.

We strongly support California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard. Thank you for your leadership and for your ongoing support of the LCFS and other clean energy strategies as critical tools to reduce pollution that threatens our health and our future.

Sincerely,

James K. Knox, Vice President, Advocacy
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, California

Alpesh Amin, MD, President
American College of Physicians, California Service Chapter

Bonnie Holmes-Gen, Senior Director, Air Quality and Climate Change
American Lung Association in California

Tom Epstein, VP of Public Affairs
Blue Shield of California

Scott Takahashi, PharmD
Co-Chair, Asthma Coalition of Los Angeles County

Praveen Buddiga, MD, President & CEO
Baz Allergy, Asthma and Sinus Clinic

Scott Santarella, President & CEO
Bonnie J. Adario Lung Cancer Foundation

Susan Hogeland, CAE, Executive Vice President
California Academy of Family Physicians

Darcel Lee, President & CEO
California Black Health Network

Justin Malan, Executive Director
California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health

Scott Clark, Associate Director
California Medical Association

Sarah de Guia, JD, Executive Director
California Pan Ethnic Health Network

Adele Amodeo, Executive Director
California Public Health Association - North

Angela C.C. Wang, MD, President
California Thoracic Society

Linda Rudolph, MD, MPH, Co-Director
Center for Climate Change and Health; Public Health Institute

Wendy Ring, MD, President
Climate 911

Bill Magavern, Policy Director
Coalition for Clean Air

Rachelle Wenger, MPA, Director, Public Policy and Community Advocacy
Dignity Health

Lynn Kersey, Executive director
Maternal and Child Health Access

Robert M. Gould, MD, President
Physicians for Social Responsibility - San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Shan Magnuson, Chair
Sonoma County Asthma Coalition

Individuals

Milton Bosch, MD, Napa
David Pepper MD, MS, Oakland
Praveen Buddiga, MD, Fresno