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Air Pollution Control Officer

(530) 332-9400
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October 22, 2015

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

Draft Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy: Support for Residential Fireplace and Woodstove Conversions as New Black Carbon Reduction Measure

Dear Chairperson Nichols:

The Governing Board of the Butte County Air Quality Management District (Board) is writing in support of the residential fireplace and woodstove conversion measure proposed in the draft "Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy" document released September 30, 2015. Residential wood combustion is a source of black carbon emissions during winter months in rural areas such as Butte County as well as fine particle pollution. This measure should support existing local woodstove and fireplace change-out programs, and will help the state achieve the climate goals and our local District to maintain healthful air quality for our citizens.

In our letter dated August 28, 2015 this Board expressed support for state programs benefiting rural communities and small businesses included in the "Concept Paper for the Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Second Investment Plan" released July 27, 2015, including assistance for local woodstove change-out programs. These existing local programs, in air districts such as the Butte County AQMD, are "shovel ready" to achieve further black carbon reductions. Investments from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund should be made to support these local programs.

The Board also requests the document be strengthened as far as the need for black carbon reductions due to wildfires.

If you have any questions on this correspondence please contact our Air Pollution Control Officer, Jim Wagoner at (530) 332-9400 or jwagoner@bcaqmd.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Andrew Coolidge", is written over a blue circular stamp or seal.

Andrew Coolidge, Chair
Butte County Air Quality Management District Governing Board

cc: Senator Jim Nielsen
Assembly Member James Gallagher