Just wanted to thank everyone for taking the time to provide their informative presentations today. One of the resounding things we've taken from the presentations so far is the attention being paid in so many of the studies towards the impacts of policies on California’s workforce. We appreciate this perspective being included in today’s information and hope EJAC members are getting an understanding of why our organization is so intent on being involved in this process. We also appreciate that several presenters mentioned ‘Carbon Capture’ by name, which we are strong advocates of. This technology is a new frontier in terms of dealing with reaching the 2045 goals and is certainly something that needs to be considered during this scoping plan process.

There has also been considerable talk of the need for partnerships in addressing the 2045 goals, including between Labor and the environmental community. The ‘Labor’ seat on EJAC being filled as quickly as possible is crucial towards allowing that partnership to manifest in the Scoping Plan process. Quite frankly, either CARB and EJAC will embrace the voice of labor being included in this process, or they won’t. Either way, labor WILL have a voice in this process, whether embraced with a seat at the table or not.

On that note, we’ve heard rumblings that there’s an expectation that Labor’s representative should reside in a specific grouping of communities to meet some statutory requirements that folks seem to believe exist. Let me be clear. We believe the statutes, as written, do not specify a representative come from just the greater Los Angeles, bay area, central valley or even Sacramento area. The statues say the representatives should come from ‘communities’ with the most significant exposure to air pollution. Communities doesn’t have to mean geographical by definition. Instead, it could and should be interpreted to include representatives of a group of PEOPLE, whether geographical OR demographic based. This interpretation would benefit Labor AND Tribal applicants. Imagine limiting the voice of tribal members based on whether or not they live in a specific geographic areas. Some of the best work being done from tribes in California associated with the environment is coming from the tribes in far northern California. Should we ignore their potential inclusion in EJAC because of where their tribal lands are? We don’t think so.

Now, I was told in a meeting yesterday with Chanell Fletcher and Trish Johnson that CARB is not considering geographical areas, per se, in making appointments to the board. I hope this is true. But, we’ll know definitively when the labor appointment is made.

Thanks again for all those involved today!

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