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Subject: Cap-and-trade
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My name is Cathy Helgerson and I live in Cupertino California the Cap-and-trade system is not a benefit to the public especially in my case with the Lehigh Southwest Cement and Quarry and the Stevens Creek quarry at my door who continue to pollute.

The real issue is that Cap-and-trade is just that a trading system with credits traded at state-sanctioned auctions and on secondary markets this only benefits the polluter/companies not the public. The question is here how do the states set the limits for the polluters? It is stated in the background information I received on this matter that some companies have not yet needed to use up the allowances to stay within state emissions limits and probably won't have to in the next couple of years, according to some analysts, who estimate there are hundreds of millions of unused credits in the system.

The result they say is a glut of credits that could allow businesses to keep polluting past state limits in later years after the overall cap becomes more restrictive. Unless the oversupply is addressed, experts say, polluters will have no incentive to cut emissions to required levels by 2030; instead, industries could continue polluting and use banked allowance to offset their emissions and technically keep them under the cap.

Further, there is no cap on local toxins affecting the communities where the polluters reside. This is a critical missing piece of this cap and trade bill and needs to be changed to protect citizens living in these geographic areas.

I would like to mention my take on all this the way I see it if a company sells their credits because they wish to make money or where given to many, to begin with by the state representatives who decide by some crude method that the amount of credits fits that company need it is too late to save the public from harm. The company such as the Lehigh Southwest Cement and Quarry buy credits at state-sanctioned auctions and on secondary markets are allowed to emit more pollution and the public suffers serious harm and even death. Trading one companies credits for whatever reason is wrong it does not benefit the public who now must endure more pollution from the company that buys the credits Lehigh, for example, can buy more credits they are over their limit. Why set limits on pollution if there is a way to just buy more credits from the state the system is flawed in so many ways and I have never understood how this system was even allowed.

The Lehigh Southwest Cement and Quarry or now called the Lehigh Hansen Cement and Quarry is an abomination has been so for over 90 years and counting they are running out of limestone to mine their cement and will soon very soon need to apply for a permit to mine another pit that will destroy 30 thousand trees and 600 acres this should never be allowed. If they are allowed to by more credits to increase this pollution allowance limit the people here in Silicon Valley and the SF Bay area will continue to suffer it seems there will be no end to this poison, pollution, and destruction.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District over the Silicon Valley under the Air

Resource Board needs to address this Cap-in-trade situation along with the state working together to shut down the Lehigh Southwest Cement and Quarry and the Steven Creek Quarry that have been polluting the public the Air, Water and Soil are highly polluted and the permit given out to these polluters only allows them to pollute. The levels of pollution are set high by the state and the EPA and so it really looks as if they are setting them high in order to allow the polluter to pollute and keep operating. It also seems that the polluter is always under these set levels and is allowed to pollute. The cumulative effect of the pollution to the public is not even taken into consideration there is no testing of the amount of pollution the public has endured and my question is why have the agencies and especially the State and Federal Health agencies not conducted tests on humans to see what is causing all of the health problems such as cancer and death. The EPA moves very slowly to set limits for each pollutant and because of that we the public continue to suffer.

I truly believe that the Cap-and-trade system should be abolished never to be heard from again and that each polluter company should have strong very strong limits set on their emissions and that the Bay Area Air Quality Management District should start to impose stronger regulations on the 400 hundred companies in the Silicon Valley that they say are polluting. There are they say 2,000 thousand companies that are polluters but it seems they can only handle 400 hundred at this time. I have asked them and the Air Resource Board to start their strong new regulations on these companies that include the Lehigh Southwest Cement and Quarry and the Steven Creek Quarry so far nothing is happening and so I have gone to the Air Resource Board to get some answers.

I hope that our representatives will take this matter very seriously and help to stop the pollution of our homes.

Thanks
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