

18-2-6

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Assembly
California Legislature



ELOISE GÓMEZ REYES
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, FORTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

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March 21, 2018

Chair Mary Nichols and Members of the Board
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Agenda Item No. 18-2-6 – Community Health Impact from Freight Facilities

Dear Chair Nicols and Members of the Board,

In February of last year I wrote a letter to South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) regarding the review of its Air Quality Management Plan. In it, I stated "Although we understand the need to collaborate with stakeholders around what may be done voluntarily, this cannot delay action." Further I made clear the need for emission reduction standards that improve the quality of life for residents across California. Ultimately action by the SCAQMD has stalled.

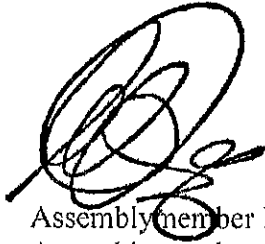
I have been heartened by Air Resources Board (ARB) and staff activity and along with advocates thank you for work being done to prioritize addressing pollution from freight facilities. There is a lot to like regarding proposed regulation for drayage trucks, cargo-handling equipment and enforcement action which includes a new freight handbook. However there is still much work that needs to be done and it is imperative that we speed up board action and engage meaningfully in discussions around more stringent regulation.

Specifically I am disappointed that, contrary to my previous letter, local air districts still seem to be focused almost exclusively on an incentive-based approach to clean up freight. This is not to say that incentives should not a part of the equation. During my time in the legislature I have successfully advocated for hundreds of millions in investments into our states most successful medium and heavy duty vehicle programs. However in order to get where the state desires to go, evolve markets, and protect our most vulnerable communities, **regulation such as an indirect source rule must be taken as seriously.**

Given the current lack of action, ARB must take the lead. Although I am mindful that regulation cannot be crafted overnight, we cannot further delay regulations such as those around zero-emission cargo handling equipment proposed to be completed by 2022, especially since they were expected this year. Taking swift action to address the number one source of transportation related pollution in California must be one of the board's top priorities. I recommend, in order to accelerate the timeline for freight regulation, ARB temporarily redirect staff to reflect this prioritization.

I often state that my constituents are usually sold a false narrative, that they can have either clean air or good jobs but not both. It is our responsibility as government to help evolve the economy to protect communities like mine who want both environmental quality and economic prosperity. I look forward to working with advocates, the board and SCAQMD to enact solutions that reinforce this ideal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eloise Reyes', with a large, stylized initial 'E'.

Assemblymember Eloise Reyes
Assemblymember 47th District