

State Building and Construction Trades Council of California

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Established 1901
Chartered by
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES
DEPARTMENT
AFL - CIO

May 20, 2021

Liane M. Randolph
Chairwoman
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: EJAC Appointments

Chairwoman Randolph:

On behalf of the nearly half-million members of the State Building & Construction Trades Council of California, I am writing to express our disappointment in CARB staff's decision to exclude the voice of our workers from the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee. While staff has clearly decided that the voice of workers engaged in the industry has no place in the drafting of the Scoping Plan, we encourage you to interject and make an appointment that allows our workers to be engaged in this process.

As an organization, we have a long history of being at the forefront of emerging technologies, including in the renewable energy markets. Our members build the vast majority of renewable energy projects in California, and we are engaged on the front end of off-shore wind development, as well as the carbon-capture push in California. This portfolio of experience makes our perspective truly important as the EJAC drafts the final advisory document for the California Air Resources Board.

Through our affiliated Unions, we work constantly to elevate workers to the Middle Class by offering fair wages, comprehensive benefits, and dignity in the workplace. Our membership ranks include 70,000 apprentices across a wide array of construction crafts, 70% of whom are people of color. In addition, over 95% of all women currently enrolled in a registered apprenticeship program are enrolled in one of OUR programs. We practice what we preach as an organization when it comes to inclusion in the industry, and our workers expect and deserve a voice at the table in regard to California's push towards addressing climate change.

I personally submitted an application to serve on EJAC that highlighted my qualifications. Aside from those qualifications, I believe my application addressed the advertised desire to engage: "Representatives that have expertise in transportation; fossil gas grid and electricity grid decarbonization..." I doubt any organization can better speak to these segments of industry than ours, and I believe my appointment is crucial in terms providing workers in these industries a voice in this important process.

Since there is no legislated maximum number of appointees to this committee, simply adding our voice to EJAC in the form of an appointment today is feasible. I am prepared to hit the ground running and work impartially with the other appointed members of EJAC to prepare a detailed, climate responsive Scoping Plan. I hope you'll take the time to consider this important request.

Respectfully,

Andrew J. Meredith
Northern California Regional Director
State Building & Construction Trades Council of California

Cc: Richard Corey, Executive Officer and Rajinder Sahota, Deputy Executive Officer