



PHYSICIANS FOR
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER

December 15, 2022

My name is Dr. Robert M. Gould. I'm testifying as President of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility (SF Bay PSR), representing hundreds of health professionals and students, who seek to protect the health of our patients and communities, who are increasingly threatened by our rapidly advancing climate emergency and the serious health impacts of fossil fuel extraction, including severe pollution of air, water and land.

While we applaud the many improvements made from the original draft scoping plan, exemplified by reducing fossil fuel demand and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), and encouraging electrification, etc., the final Plan still disproportionately favors the interests of fossil fuels and other polluting industries above the needs of overburdened communities, and above our primary public and environmental health needs.

In particular, we agree with our partners in the Environmental Justice community that the Scoping Plan continues to rely too much on what we would regard as the false promise of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology, and that this focus diverts us from better prioritizing nature-based carbon sequestration. The recent accelerated promotion of CCS in California, and throughout our nation, represents a threat to our public and environmental health at every stage ranging from capture through transport and storage, and in particular puts at risk the health of our already overburdened communities.

We are also concerned that a comprehensive public health analysis has not yet been integrated into the design of the Scoping Plan. We strongly urge that CARB form a public health advisory group and work with public health experts with proven expertise in climate, health, and equity to conduct on-going public health equity analyses that would prioritize identified community health needs in the implementation of each component of the 2022 Scoping Plan.

In conclusion, while we support the overall thrust of the plan, to fully protect our community health, we must reject false solutions that threaten to extend the fossil fuel era while providing additional outrageous payouts and subsidies to the very corporations that created our climate crisis. As a physician with two grandsons who are, as all of our children, facing a bleak future not of their making, I urge you refocus your

efforts to end the extraction of oil and gas in our state as soon as possible. Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Gould, MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Robert M. Gould, MD
President
San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social
Responsibility