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San Joaquin County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
California Air Resources Board, April 23, 2009

My name is Mark Martinez and I am the CEO of the San Joaquin County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. I'm also Chair of the City of Stockton's Planning Commission, but I'm not speaking in that capacity today. I mention it because I'm well acquainted with the challenges of policy-making. I'd like to commend you for all your efforts to improve California's environment and especially for your hard work on AB 32 implementation.

That being said, these policy decisions can't be made in a vacuum. Policymakers need to have all the information they can possibly get, and they have to weigh it in the context of the broader realities of the time.

In the San Joaquin Valley, where I come from, unemployment is at 15.8% - 50% higher than the statewide average. It's been projected that it will grow to about 18% by the end of this year. Our region also suffers from a home foreclosure rate that ranks among the highest in the nation. So this is the context in which the San Joaquin County Hispanic Chamber looks at the proposed low carbon fuel standard.

We're worried that overall, not enough research and independent review have been conducted, as required by law. In particular we're worried, since a lot of our businesses are heavy diesel fuel users engaged in agriculture and trucking, that the diesel component of this rule will cause far more problems than it will solve.

Our folks want -- and need to know:

- How much will the fuel cost?
- Will there be enough low carbon diesel available?
- Will the new diesel fuel cause performance problems or damage to existing diesel engines?

Also -- we are extremely worried that California is doing this alone. Without comparable rules in other states and at the federal level, California will be at an even greater competitive disadvantage than it already is. So we'll lose more business and jobs to other states, who'll bring their pollution across our borders anyway. That's a losing situation all around.

If this rule is not adopted until all the unanswered questions can be worked out, it won't mean the end of the fight against global warming. If it's adopted too soon, though, it will mean the end of more California small businesses and jobs.

Please delay action on this rule until these important issues have been resolved.

Thank you.