

Steve Gondola
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**Steve Gondola, President & CEO
Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
California Air Resources Board
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My name is Steve Gondola. I'm president and CEO of the Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Our members are predominantly small, minority-owned businesses. As you can imagine, we've been feeling the pinch of the prolonged recession, and have been doing everything we can to keep costs in line so we can get through these hard times.

We've been supportive of the goals of AB 32 all along. But we are growing increasingly concerned about the costs and method of developing policies intended to advance those goals.

The Scoping Plan this board adopted last December requires that AB 32 policies are cost effective and deliver real global warming emissions reductions, while taking into account those policies' impacts on small businesses and low income families.

The Low Carbon Fuel Standard as proposed raises serious doubts about the cost-effectiveness of the program, and the prioritization it's receiving is questionable.

We understand that the Low Carbon Fuel Standard is meant to be an early action. But perhaps you ought to be looking at recommending to the Administration and the Legislature that our increasingly scarce resources should be focused on lower-cost, simpler strategies that will encourage energy efficiency and conservation without risking small businesses, jobs and our economy.

Your leadership in environmental protection is admirable. The Sacramento Hispanic Chamber is asking you to demonstrate leadership in recognizing the barriers and limitations inherent in pursuing the LCFS at this time and in this manner by working with the public, the legislature and the Governor to develop more realistic priorities and cost-effective policies.