

2012-161

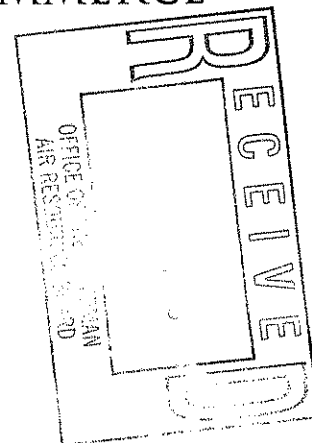
# CARPINTERIA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

December 8, 2008

Ms. Mary Nichols, Chair  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

ORIGINAL:  
Copies:

Board Clerk  
Executive Officer  
Chair



Re: AB32

Dear Ms. Nichols:

As the President/CEO of a Chamber of Commerce representing over 400 businesses, I am very concerned about the current state of the economy and the devastating effect on our businesses. California already imposes a number of taxes on businesses. It is important to protect the environment; however, it must not come at the expense of businesses already struggling.

As you consider the best way to implement California's climate change program, I urge you to take into account California's struggling small businesses. The proposed plan your agency has put forth increases taxes, energy costs, fuel costs, vehicle costs and building costs, which will all hurt small businesses, some of which may be forced to close.

In addition, many of the implementation measures you are suggesting require billions of dollars in capital investments and annual operating cost increases. Many businesses cannot afford the required upfront investments and cannot afford to wait several years hoping to see returns on these investments.

I encourage you to adopt a balanced, cost-effective climate change plan that does not impose an impossible burden on small businesses and consumers. By using the most cost-effective strategies to minimize greenhouse gas emissions we can reduce global warming while also protecting California's companies, jobs and the economy.

Cordially,

Lynda Lang  
President/CEO  
Carpinteria Valley Chamber of Commerce