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Assembly California Legislature



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November 17, 2008

Chairperson Mary D. Nichols
Air Resources Board
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: Treatment of Land Use in Proposed Scoping Plan

Dear Chairperson Nichols:

First, congratulations to you and the staff at the ARB and the other agencies associated with the effort to begin implementation of AB 32. The Scoping Plan is coming together in an impressive and timely fashion. This letter however focuses on a serious concern that we have with the Plan as drafted so far – the low target established for the contribution of the land use sector to the lowering of greenhouse gas emissions.

Many individuals and organizations commented on the *draft* Scoping Plan that a goal of 2 MMTCO₂E for the land use sector (now mostly represented by the sector titled “Regional Transportation-Related GHG Targets) was drastically low. The revised and pending Scoping Plan has increased the land use sector target to 5 MMTCO₂E. We find this target to still be too low and ask that the CARB adopt a target of at least 14 MMTCO₂E.

The low amount of reductions sought from the land use sector (just under 3% of overall reductions sought) unfairly burdens other sectors such as electricity generation and heavy industry with higher reduction requirements. A number of experts have pointed out that if we do not obtain reductions in greenhouse gases from better land use decisions, many of the gains in other sectors will be nullified by the increasing GHG emissions associated with status quo land use decisions in California, namely ever expanding sprawl that increases vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

The Scoping Plan almost exclusively relies upon the implementation of SB 375, which becomes law January 1, 2009, for reductions in the land use sector. However, setting a low statewide target in the Scoping Plan for reductions associated with land use will undermine SB 375 in that it will result in low regional targets that in turn will reduce the reductions from SB 375.

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