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Deliver rapid greenhouse gas reductions at scale, starting in California.

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August 24, 2020

Senator Melissa Hurtado  
State Capitol, Room 3070  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 1012 (Hurtado) Oil and Gas Wells – OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Hurtado:

In light of the most recent amendments to your bill, Senate Bill 1012, The Climate Center must regrettably register its opposition to the bill.

The new language in section 3237(c)(2)(ii) is unnecessary and problematic. Current law provides a process for CalGEM to recover costs from previous operators. As stated in the Public Resources Code section 3237(c)(1): "If the supervisor determines that the current operator does not have the financial resources to fully cover the cost of plugging and abandoning the well or the decommissioning of deserted production facilities, the immediately preceding operator shall be responsible for the cost of plugging and abandoning the well or the decommissioning of deserted production facilities."

Yet SB 1012 will complicate this procedure by adding section 3237(c)(2)(ii) stating that "[t]he supervisor shall make reasonable efforts to recover costs from the current operator prior to seeking to recover costs from a previous operator." This type of language will create unnecessary delays in the cost recovery process and make it harder for CalGEM to hold solvent fossil fuel companies responsible for remediating wells that they previously operated.

Therefore, The Climate Center is opposed to SB 1012 as currently written. We respectfully urge you to focus the legislation on bolstering reporting requirements and criteria for idle and abandoned wells and remove any amendments that could interfere with CalGEM's existing authority to recover costs.

Sincerely,

Ellie Cohen  
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Assembly Natural Resources Committee; Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee