



Our mission

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

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April 1, 2022

The Honorable Luz Rivas
Chair, Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 2550 (Arambula) – Air Quality Standards Attainment – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Rivas:

On behalf of The Climate Center and its thousands of statewide supporters, I write to express our support for AB 2550, which increases state engagement in protecting the health of Californians suffering from poor air quality. The Climate Center is a California nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2001 with a mission to deliver rapid greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions at scale, starting in California.

Two key pollutants that are regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Air Resources Board (ARB) include particulate matter (PM) and ozone. Both of these pollutants are products of stationary and areawide sources (industrial, residential, agriculture) and mobile (vehicular, locomotive) sources. ARB estimates if certain pollutants were reduced, the State could avoid nearly 9,000 premature deaths. The public health impact is enough to justify the measures in this bill, and in addition there are significant co-benefits of reducing these pollutants in addressing greenhouse gas pollution.

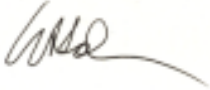
Currently, California law delegates the planning and control of stationary and area pollution sources to local and regional entities. There are 35 local air districts that fill this responsibility to achieve EPA and ARB air quality standards. Unfortunately, only the San Joaquin Valley air basin has yet to attain standards for PM set by the EPA in 1997, let alone more recent standards. The ARB must stop rubber-stamping plans that do not include meaningful controls and must instead work with the San Joaquin Valley Air District to find additional emission reductions and accelerate existing commitments.

Poor air quality has numerous negative impacts on the health of Californians, including the development of asthma and other respiratory illnesses in children as well as increased risk of cancer and cardiovascular disease in adults. A recent study found that fossil fuel air pollution caused over 8 million deaths globally in 2018 alone. In 2016, the ARB estimated that 1,200 people die prematurely every year in the San Joaquin Valley due to fine particle pollution. Air pollution costs the Valley more than \$1,600 per person each year, nearly \$6 billion, representing lives lost prematurely, asthma attacks, hospital visits, and missed school & work.

For those that live within the jurisdiction of these air districts, failure to meet clean air standards translates to poor health and other socioeconomic outcomes. The San Joaquin Valley has the highest asthma rates in the nation, with one in four children diagnosed with asthma. For families already struggling to make ends meet, this bears significant economic and public health consequences. AB 2550 recognizes the extraordinary circumstances for districts which have not met clean air standards and lends ARB additional authority to assist and guide districts to reach air quality levels that protect the health and livelihoods of Californians, while also protecting our climate.

For all the above reasons, The Climate Center strongly supports AB 2550.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ellie Cohen', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ellie Cohen
CEO
The Climate Center

cc: Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, Members, and Staff
Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula, Author