



March 20, 2023

Assembly Member Wendy Carrillo
 1021 O Street, Suite 8140
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1167 (Carrillo) Orphan Well Prevention Act – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member W. Carrillo:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to support your bill, AB 1167, the Orphan Well Prevention Act, which would help ensure that California taxpayers are not stuck

with the bill for cleaning up oil wells that get sold off to less financially stable buyers. The bill would require that buyers of oil wells post a bond for the full cost of plugging and abandoning them after they are no longer producing.

Current law requires that anyone drilling a well post a bond to cover plugging and abandonment, but the bonding amounts fall far short of what's necessary to pay for that process. The California Council on Science and Technology has [estimated](#) the average cost of plugging and abandonment per well at roughly \$68,000, but [required](#) bonding amounts can be as low as a few hundred dollars per well. This bonding shortfall becomes a heightened risk for the state when well owners transfer their aging wells to potentially less solvent owners. This risk already [materialized](#) into multimillion dollar liability for the state when the owner of the idle wells on Rincon Island went bankrupt in 2016, and the situation threatens to repeat itself as California's oil production dwindles and owners increasingly seek to offload their marginal and idle wells, as Aera Energy (an Exxon/Mobil partnership) [did last year](#).

In addition to the financial risks to the state, the current shortfall in bond funds leads to significant health and safety risks for people living near orphaned wells that have not been plugged or abandoned due to lack of resources. It is essential for health, safety and the environment that wells be properly closed once they have ceased operations.

AB 1167 would squarely address this problem by requiring that any buyer of an oil well in California post a bond for the full cost of plugging and abandonment, ensuring that well owners cannot use sales to pass the buck for their cleanup costs to the state's taxpayers. It's the commonsense solution to a growing problem.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. We are pleased to support AB 1167.

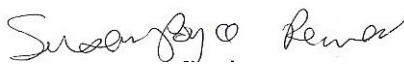
Sincerely,



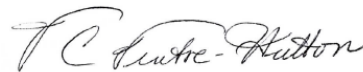
Victoria Rome
California Government Affairs Director
NRDC



Laura Deehan
State Director
Environment California



Susan Penner
Co-Chair, Legislative Working Group
1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations



Valerie Ventre-Hutton
Legislative Analyst
350 Bay Area Action



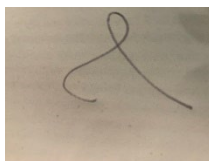
William Brieger
Chair, Legislative Team
350 Sacramento



Marilyn Bruno
CEO
Aequor Inc.



Carly Rixham
Executive Director
American Solar Energy Society



Cheryl Auger
President
Ban SUP (Single Use Plastic)



Linda Seeley
Secretary/Treasurer
Biodiversity First!



Marc Carrel
President and CEO
Breathe Southern California



Melissa Romero
Senior Legislative Manager
California Environmental Voters



Scarlett Russell
Programs Coordinator
California Nurses for Environmental Health and
Justice



Michael J. Painter
Coordinator
Californians for Western Wilderness



Jenn Engstrom
State Director
CALPIRG



Ector Olivares
Program Manager- Environmental Justice
Catholic Charities of Stockton



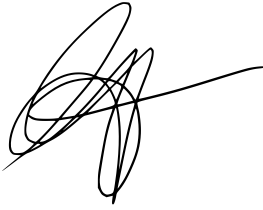
Jason Pfeifle
Senior Campaigner
Center for Biological Diversity



Linda Rudolph
Senior Policy Advisor
Center for Climate Change and Health



Jose Torre-Bueno
Executive Director
Center for Community Energy



Grecia Orozco
Staff Attorney
Center on Race, Poverty, & the Environment



Nayamin Martinez
Executive Director
Central California Environmental Justice Network


Jesus Alonso Employee

Jesus Alonso
Community Organizer
Clean Water Action



Suzanne Hume
Educational Director & Founder
CleanEarth4Kids.org



Janet Cox
CEO
Climate Action California

Eileen Mitro

Eileen Mitro
Coordinator
Climate Action Mendocino



Ellie Cohen
Chief Executive Officer
The Climate Center



Haley Ehlers
Director
Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas (CFROG)

Kathy Schaeffer

Kathy Schaeffer
Legislative Coordinator
Climate Reality Project, San Fernando Valley
Chapter



Jessica Mitchell
Education and Engagement Program Manager
Ecology Center



Alex Cornell du Houx
President
Elected Officials to Protect America Code
Blue Water Security Solutions



Katelyn Roedner Sutter
California State Director
Environmental Defense Fund



Bill Allayaud
California Director of Government Affairs
Environmental Working Group



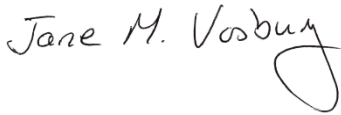
Iwalani Faulkner
Director
Equity Transit



Catherine Dodd PhD RN
Advisor
Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics
Safety (FACTS)



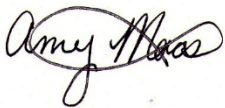
Jessica Craven
Steering Committee co-chair
Feminists in Action Los Angeles



Jane Vosburg
Board President
Fossil Free California



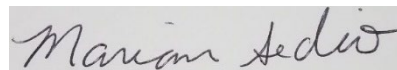
Michael Wellborn
President
Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks



Amy Moas, Ph.D.
Senior Climate Campaigner
Greenpeace USA



Thomas Joseph Tsewenaldin
Carbon Policy Educator
Indigenous Environmental Network



Marian Sedio
Secretary
North County Climate Change Alliance



Ilonka Zlatar
Organizer
Oil and Gas Action Network



Gopal Shanker
President
Récolte Energy

Pauline Seales

Pauline Seales
Organizer
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network



Sakereh Carter
Senior Policy Advocate
Sierra Club CA

Jack Eidt

Jack Eidt
Co-Founder
SoCal 350 Climate Action

Shoshana Wechsler

Shoshana Wechsler
Coordinator
Sunflower Alliance

Maryam Dallawar

Maryam Dallawar
Hub Coordinator
Sunrise Movement Orange County



Marilyn Price
Co-Chair
Sustainable Mill Valley



Dennis Murphy
Director, Water & Sustainable Life
Sustainable Silicon Valley