



SB684/ AB1243 SUPPORT



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March 25, 2025

Senate Environmental Quality Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act (SB 684, Menjivar) – SUPPORT

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee – Chair Blakespear, Vice Chair Valladares, and Senators Dahle, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar, Padilla, and Pérez:

The undersigned organizations join the bill sponsors (Center for Biological Diversity, Campaign for a Safe and Healthy California, and California Environmental Voters) in strong support of [SB 684](#), the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act. Californians have paid enough. Now more than ever, we are feeling the utter devastation of the climate crisis. Earlier this year, flames engulfed entire neighborhoods in Los Angeles, forcing tens of thousands of people to evacuate, killing at least 29 people, and leaving harrowing destruction. This climate disaster alone is estimated to cost as high as \$275 billion. Polluters—not California’s working families—should be on the hook to pay to help remedy the harm their products caused. **The Climate Superfund Act is an urgent and necessary solution to invest in California’s future, protect communities, build more resilient neighborhoods, and support essential workers at the center of responding to climate disasters.**

The Climate Superfund Act will ease the burden California taxpayers and families face while struggling to rebuild from climate disasters. It requires the world’s biggest fossil fuel polluters to use their global profits to pay for damage their products caused the state. These polluters are overwhelmingly responsible for climate devastation; for decades they knew their products and actions posed catastrophic risks to humanity, yet they continued to spread disinformation and block critical climate action, while raking in record profits.

This bill requires the state to quantify climate damage costs to California, local and tribal governments, and residents. The state would then assess compensatory fees proportional to a polluter’s past emissions. Polluters identified as responsible parties would also be assessed to cover administration costs (which are capped at 10%).) The bill sets a high threshold; it only applies to those entities that emitted more than one billion metric tons of greenhouse gases from 1990 through 2024.

These fees would fund state investments to recover from, adapt to, and mitigate climate damage. Such investments could include disaster recovery and response; clean energy and transportation infrastructure; community and school resilience; energy efficiency and building decarbonization to reduce family utility costs; and support for essential workers and first responders. The aim of the bill is to dedicate at least 40% of the funds to benefit frontline, environmental justice communities hit hardest by fossil fuel pollution. **This legislation could raise hundreds of billions of dollars to protect Californians and invest in affordable, resilient, and sustainable communities.**

Our groups collectively represent hundreds of thousands of Californians who are harmed by and at risk of further climate disasters. As horrific as they were, the Los Angeles fires were just the latest climate catastrophe Californians have endured. From fires to floods, rising sea levels, atmospheric rivers, extreme heat, and prolonged drought, fossil-fueled climate disruption is wreaking havoc across California, costing Californians billions.

Our current infrastructure is not suited for the climate fossil fuels have created. To safeguard Californians, infrastructure upgrades are desperately needed, including for home hardening and structural protections against wildfires, flood protection in vulnerable neighborhoods and farmlands, and extreme heat protections for workers, families and schoolchildren.

Climate-related health costs are also rising. Smoke exposure worsens asthma, extreme heat can cause heat stroke and exhaustion, and shifting climate conditions can drive the spread of infectious disease. Environmental justice communities have borne the brunt of these costs and the harms of fossil fuel pollution for decades leading to increased incidences of respiratory diseases and cancers, and lower life expectancies.

Who is going to pay for this? Californians can't afford to shoulder escalating insurance rates, housing and utility costs, and health expenses driven skyward by the climate crisis. State and local budgets are already stretched to the brink; local and tribal governments can't afford to make the necessary investments to fortify their communities and residents against ever-increasing climate risks. It's time to make polluters pay for the damage they knew their products would cost Californians.

This bill is separate and distinct from important climate accountability lawsuits.

We strongly support the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act (SB 684) and urge you to pass this common-sense and necessary legislation to protect Californians and to invest in a safer, cleaner, more efficient, cost-effective, sustainable, and just future.

Sincerely,

1000 Grandmothers, *Susan Penner*
198 methods, *Drew Hudson*
350 Bay Area Action, *Valerie Ventre-Hutton*
350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley,
Alan Weiner
350 Contra Costa Action, *Illana Weisman*

350 Humboldt, *Daniel Chandler*
350 Sacramento, *Katie McCammon*
350 Santa Barbara, *Sharon Broberg*
350 Southland Legislative Alliance, *Sherry Lear*
350 Ventura County Climate Hub, *Jan Dietrick*
350.org, *Jeff Ordower*

350 Marin, *Patrick Costello*
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 Action for the Climate Emergency (ACE), *Leah Qusba*
 Active San Gabriel Valley, *Marlene Buenrostro*
 American Academy of Pediatrics, California, *Karmi Ferguson*
 American Lung Association, *Mariela Ruacho*
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 Better APC, *Sam Mazzeo*
 Better Future Project, *Rachael Boyce*
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 Bicycling Monterey, *Mari Lynch*
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 Black Women for Wellness Action Project, *Tianna Shaw-Wakeman*
 CA Youth vs. Big Oil, *Cori Lopez*
 California Association of Professional Employees (CAPE), *Carmen Lopez*
 California Calls, *Eddie Thomas*
 California Climate Voters, *Micah Perlin*
 California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA) Action, *Raquel Mason*
 California Environmental Voters, *Fatima Iqbal-Zubair*
 California Federation of Teachers, *Mitch Steiger*
 California Green New Deal Coalition, *Zach Lou*
 California Institute for Biodiversity, *Daniel Gluesenkamp*
 California Interfaith Power & Light, *Bekah Estrada*

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 Californians Against Waste, *Nick Lapis*
 Campaign for a Safe and Healthy California, *Amy Costa*
 Carbon Cycle Institute, *Torri Estrada*
 CCAN Action Fund, *Quentin Scott*
 Center for Biological Diversity, *Christina Scaringe*
 Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ), *Marven Norman*
 Center for Developing Leadership in Science, *Aradhna Tripathi*
 Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment, *Dan Ress*
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 Central California Environmental Justice Network, *Nayamin Martinez*
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 CleanEarth4Kids.org, *Suzanne Hume*
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 Climate Action Campaign, *Ali Dressel*
 Climate Defenders, *Renata Pumarol*
 Climate Equity Policy Center, *Sara Zimmerman*
 Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas (CFROG), *Haley Ehlers*
 Climate Hawks Vote, *RL Miller*
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 Climate Reality Project - Orange County, *Lisa Swanson*
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 Greenpeace USA, *Zach Norris*
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 Our Time to Act, *Nicole Lillie*

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 Protect Playa Now, *Faith Myhra*
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 Resilient Palisades, *Sara Marti*
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