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# Assembly California Legislature



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FOSTER CARE  
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March 3, 2016

Dr. William Burke, Chairman  
South Coast Air Quality Management Board  
21865 Copley Drive  
Diamond Bar, CA 91865

**Re: South Coast Air Quality Management District RECLAIM Program  
Amendment**

Dear Chairman Burke:

We are writing to express our concerns related to the apparent disagreement between the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and the California Air Resources Board (ARB) with respect to recent SCAQMD Board (Board) amendments that will obtain further substantial emission reductions from the district's RECLAIM program.

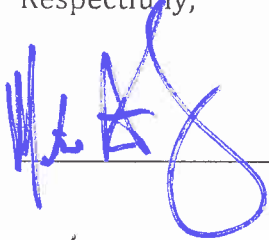
After reviewing letters from ARB staff and some members of the California Senate, and the corresponding responses from Dr. Wallerstein and yourself, it appears that the Board exercised scrupulous diligence in reducing emissions from RECLAIM sources in the district. We appreciate your further explanation that, while the Board seriously considered staff's analysis, it concluded that through the robust public process it heard "credible and convincing testimony that staff's proposal was too aggressive, the shave was too big and too fast, and the result would be a non-functional RECLAIM market."


One of the critical points you made in your February 18<sup>th</sup> letter, with which we concur, is that it is the Board, not the staff, which has the ultimate responsibility for policy decisions. This applies not only to SCAQMD, but to the CARB Board and to us as legislators. The Board weighed evidence provided from all stakeholders. It is critical for ARB to respect and uphold the statutory separation of authorities, responsibilities and expertise, and allow the Board to apply its well-considered judgment in continuing to successfully implement the RECLAIM program.

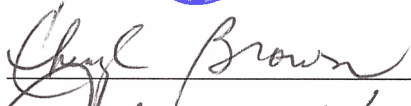


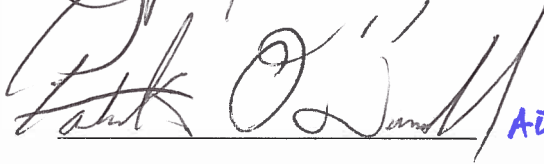
We appreciate your leadership and the Board's commitment to improving Southern California's air quality, while weighing the input of all stakeholders as you clearly demonstrated during this process. For these reasons, we encourage you to resist attempts to alter this rulemaking and remain confident in your authority and committed to the action you have already taken as a Board.


Respectfully,

  
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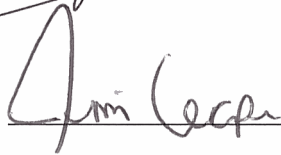
  
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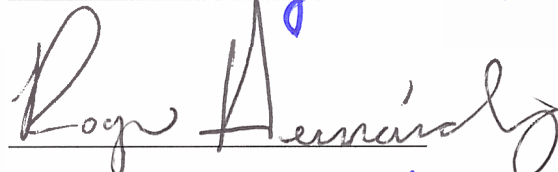
  
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