



May 23, 2023

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
California State Assembly
1020 N Street, Room 157
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support AB 1465 (Wicks) – Refinery Penalties

Dear Assemblymember Wicks:

On behalf of the American Lung Association, I am writing in support of Assembly Bill 1465 (Wicks). AB 1465 provides for increased penalties for excessive toxic emissions released by refineries in California as an important tool to correct conditions for such releases.

The American Lung Association's "[State of the Air](#)" 2023 report was issued on April 19, 2023 and illustrates that Californians face the most difficult air pollution burdens in the nation. Children, seniors, those with heart and lung disease and others are more vulnerable to these consequences. Further, lower-income people and people of color often bear an added, disproportionate burden due to nearby sources of harmful emissions. AB 1465 would impose higher penalties for refineries that release toxic air contaminants that cause harm in communities affected by the release.

Specifically, AB 1465 seeks to increase the deterrent effect of fines for the release of toxic air contaminants that cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance or endanger the comfort, repose, health or safety to any considerable number of persons, or to the public, or that cause, or have a tendency to cause, injury or damage to a business or property. By tripling the civil penalties imposed, AB 1465 would provide greater incentive to act appropriately and preventatively to avoid harmful releases of carcinogenic air toxics into the communities nearest refineries.

The American Lung Association supports AB 1465 to better protect community health near refineries. Please contact me with any questions at William.Barrett@Lung.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Barrett".

Will Barrett
National Senior Director, Clean Air Advocacy