



December 6, 2013

The Honorable Jerry Brown
 Governor of California
 State Capitol Building
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Health organizations support investment of AB 32 cap and trade revenues to climate programs that protect health

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the undersigned health and medical organizations, we are writing to encourage immediate investment of AB 32 cap and trade auction proceeds in climate programs to further demonstrate your leadership in addressing climate change and protecting public health. Scientists agree that climate change poses the greatest threat to health and safety in the 21st century.

As health professionals working in California, we are deeply concerned about the health impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events, including storms, wildfires, heat and drought, and know that these impacts will only become more difficult to manage with rising temperatures. Your recent actions to coordinate state efforts on climate change will go a long way to protecting Californians and we call on you to use available cap and trade program proceeds to fund vital climate programs to improve and protect health.

In order to protect public health, air quality and the environment, we must dedicate all available resources to cut our greenhouse gas emissions. California is experiencing a public

health crisis due to chronic illness burdens, including asthma, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, heart disease and diabetes, as well as obesity. These high levels of chronic disease are exacerbated by air pollution exposures, with nearly 90 percent of Californians living in areas with unhealthy air caused by our dependence on dirty fossil fuels. Poor land use and transportation planning designed around cars also adds to our health challenges by increasing traffic related injuries and death and limiting healthier walking, biking and transit options.

The price tag of our state's chronic health problems adds up to billions in hospital visits, medications and premature deaths. These and other health concerns, as well as increases in wildfires, heat waves, infectious diseases and other threats will only worsen as climate change impacts continue to grow. Because of this, we believe that the AB 32 cap and trade auction proceeds must be directed immediately to greenhouse gas reduction programs. Specifically, we request:

- Investment of auction proceeds should prioritize programs that provide the greatest air quality and health benefits, particularly in California's most disadvantaged communities.
- All auction proceeds should be dedicated to climate programs and no proceeds should be directed to the State General Fund.
- Ensure that auction proceeds loaned to the General Fund in 2013-2014 are repaid as soon as possible to support climate programs.

Further, as we invest in programs to decarbonize our energy and transportation sources, we must also evaluate which investments will provide the greatest near-term relief from poor health outcomes caused by our environment. Improving the lives of all Californians, but especially our most disadvantaged communities who are already burdened with high air pollution exposures, must be a key focus of the state's investment to reduce greenhouse gases. The health community supports the Air Resources Board's Cap and Trade Auction Proceeds Investment Plan and specifically investments in the following key areas to improve air quality and improve public health:

- **Maximize local and regional reductions in criteria air pollutants to support efforts to meet state and federal clean air standards.**
- **Advance health and equity in disadvantaged communities and areas most impacted by air pollution.**
- **Improve community resilience to worsening climate conditions in the future through improved air quality and health, community design and safe active transportation options.**
- **Support zero and near zero emission transportation and fuels, including more sustainable freight solutions.**
- **Support renewable energy, energy efficiency and healthy housing.**

We commend your leadership on climate change and urge you to fully dedicate cap and trade auction proceeds to climate programs that best improve health in the 2014-2015 budget.

Sincerely,

Kris Calvin, CEO
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

Bonnie Holmes-Gen
Senior Director, Policy and Advocacy
American Lung Association in California

James K Knox, Vice President, Advocacy
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, California

Robert Vinetz, MD, Chair
Asthma Coalition of Los Angeles County

Andy Katz, JD, Government Relations Director
Breathe California

Mark Dressner, MD, President
California Academy of Family Physicians

Darcel Lee, President/CEO
California Black Health Network

California Thoracic Society

Patricia Ochoa, Deputy Policy Director
Coalition for Clean Air

Rachelle Wenger, MPA
Director, Public Policy and Community Advocacy
Dignity Health

Eric Lerner, Climate Director
Healthcare Without Harm

Elisa Nicholas, MD, MSPH
Chief Executive Officer
The Children's Clinic, "Serving Children and Their Families"

Elisa Nicholas, MD, MSPH, Project Director

Jessica Tovar, MSW, Project Manager

Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma

Angelo Bellomo, Director of Environmental Health

Charlene Contreras, Chief Environmental Health Specialist

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Sister Judy Moresci, Vice President of Mission Integration

Mercy Hospitals of Bakersfield

Harry Wang, MD, President

Physicians for Social Responsibility – Sacramento

Robert Gould, MD, President

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Physicians for Social Responsibility

Jeremy Cantor, MPH, Program Manager

Prevention Institute

Mathew Marsom, Vice President, Public Health Policy & Advocacy

Public Health Institute

Joel Ervice, Associate Director

Regional Asthma Management and Prevention

Rye Baerg

Regional Policy Manager

Safe Routes to School National Partnership

Michael Kelly, MD, Chair

San Diego Regional Asthma Coalition

Gloria Thornton, MA, LMFT, Chair

San Francisco Asthma Task Force

William C. Parrish, Jr, CEO

Santa Clara County Medical Association

Jim Mangia, MPH

President and CEO

St. John's Well Child and Family Centers

Teri Duarte, MPH
Executive Director
WALKSacramento

Sonal Patel, MD, MS
Pediatric/Adult Allergy & Immunology
White Memorial Pediatric Medical Group

Luis Pardo, CEO/President
Worksite Wellness LA

Individuals

Carlos Bello, MPH, CHES
Health Educator
Bakersfield, CA

Viki Chaudrue, RN, MSNEd, EdD
Los Angeles, CA

Carmen Garcia, RN BSN
Downey, CA

Leslie Hata, DDS
Oakland, CA

Karen Jakpor, MD, MPH
Riverside, CA

Cindy Lee Russell, MD
Santa Clara, CA

Ware Kuschner, MD
Pacifica, CA