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November 19th, 2025

California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Sanchez,

I write to express my gratitude to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for the recent proposed updates to the Landfill Methane Regulation (LMR). California must continue to lead the fight against climate change through its efforts to reduce harmful methane emissions.

In 2010, the adoption of CARB's LMR set a strict standard for landfill operators to reduce methane emissions by collecting gas, controlling leaks, and monitoring surface emissions. While this standard has set a national model for methane emissions monitoring, it must also reflect updates in science and technology. Since 2010, several advances in methane monitoring technology have allowed CARB and landfill operators to detect leaks. Using this technology to its fullest extent will protect Californians from benzene, hydrogen sulfide, and other harmful gases that may go undetected. In 2023, I introduced AB 1534, which would have required CARB to consider the application of remote sensors such as drones to find and help landfill operators more accurately target methane leaks and prevent subsurface fires. This update is timely as Californians witness the effects of the smoldering landfill in Chiquita Canyon.

CARB's updates to the LMR are also a welcome change in the face of federal headwinds. With reduced greenhouse gas monitoring and reporting at the federal level, California's role is as important as ever. Updating the LMR to require action by the landfill operator once they are notified of a remotely-detected methane plume effectively maximizes the state's investments in drone and satellite technologies. As shown by CARB's recently published data, remote monitoring is effective, helping to stop 10 large methane leaks. The improved monitoring of gas collection and control will keep communities safe by ensuring that both operating and closed landfills control methane leaks. As 40 percent of the state's landfills are closed the LMR will play an outsized role in managing declining gas generation at these facilities.

Thank you for your continued work on this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact my office at (916) 319-2042.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jacqui Irwin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

JACQUI IRWIN, Assemblymember 42nd District