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I write to you with great excitement about the opportunity before the California Air Resources Board to immediately improve air quality for landfill workers and nearby communities and cement the State of California's legacy as a national and international leader on climate and technology.

At a time when federal policymaking is absent and speed is essential, we need CARB to quickly approve the amendments to its landfill regulations to ensure that Californians benefit from new technology that finds and fixes methane leaks. These amendments will be some of the most straightforward and significant policy actions available at the state level to reduce methane emissions.

Methane is responsible for roughly a third of today's global warming, and because it is so potent over the short term, reducing methane leaks can slow climate change much more quickly than carbon dioxide reductions alone.

Over the past decade, methane levels in California have remained largely unchanged, but with rapid advances in detection technology, California can now address a major source of methane emissions at landfills.

The state's proposed amendments reflect a solid understanding of evolving science and technology. They strengthen gas-collection requirements, expand surface monitoring, and require earlier installation of controls in new waste areas. Crucially, they also allow the use of modern detection tools — including satellites — that can identify leaks far more effectively than traditional methods and help detect early signs of subsurface heating events like those at Chiquita Canyon.

What makes this proposal particularly compelling is how it balances stronger oversight with practical implementation, focused on the greatest opportunities to make a meaningful difference in emissions reductions without overburdening the sector.

Clear statewide standards also create consistency and accountability. Most landfill operators work hard to manage their facilities responsibly. Strong rules give them certainty, level the playing field, and build public confidence that everyone is doing their part.

These amendments will bring about meaningful health benefits, modernize an outdated system, and drive down emissions at precisely the moment when rapid action matters most.

California has an opportunity to show the country what constructive, effective climate leadership looks like. I encourage CARB to adopt the proposed amendments without delay. The longer we wait, the more methane we allow into our atmosphere — and the harder it becomes to meet our climate goals.

Let's get this right, and let's get it done.



Gina McCarthy
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