

Paul Maxwell

As a Hollister resident struggling with high gas prices for commuting, family errands, and agricultural work in San Benito County, I strongly oppose further tightening of the Cap-and-Invest program through these proposed amendments. Industry analyses warn that stricter allowance caps could drive gasoline prices up by 15 cents per gallon or more in the near term, with risks of even higher increases long-term from refinery strain, potential closures, job losses, and greater dependence on imported fuels—exacerbating California's already volatile market driven by taxes, special blends, and global factors. While the program claims to fund ratepayer relief and clean investments, past experience shows limited direct offsets for working families facing immediate pump pain around \$4.40–\$4.50 per gallon locally, and added regulations will only compound affordability crises without delivering proportional benefits soon enough. CARB should reject or significantly scale back these changes to prioritize no more burdensome rules on energy and consumers right now. Please halt additional regulations that hit our wallets hardest. Thank you. (98 words)