

# California State Senate

SENATE MINORITY LEADER BRIAN W. JONES

FORTIETH SENATE DISTRICT



May 1, 2026

The Honorable Lauren Sanchez, Chair  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Comments on the 15-Day Modified Text for the Cap-and-Invest Program Regulations – Prioritizing Affordability and Economic Competitiveness**

Dear Chair Sanchez:

As a member of the California State Senate and as Senate Minority Leader, I urge the Air Resources Board (ARB) to prioritize affordability for California families and the long-term economic competitiveness of our state as you consider final adoption of Cap-and-Invest regulations.

While I remain skeptical of the underlying premise of Cap-and-Invest, it is crucial that the regulations minimize additional cost pressures on Californians already struggling with high electricity, fuel, and living expenses.

I understand that you have heard from other legislators calling for revisions to the regulations to decrease the number of allowances. I disagree and believe that aggressively reducing allowances in the short term only risks driving up compliance costs, which will be passed on to already struggling Californians in the form of higher prices for everyday needs.

At the same time, long-term regulatory certainty is critical to avoid unnecessary market volatility and cost spikes. Without a stable framework, businesses are less able to make forward-looking investments, which can ultimately drive higher compliance costs that are passed on to consumers. I encourage ARB to begin work immediately on the post-2030 regulations to provide greater clarity and stability.

I appreciate that the April modified regulations included targeted improvements such as the expanded Manufacturing Decarbonization Incentive and additional compliance support for energy-intensive sectors. These will help reduce leakage and stem further job losses.

Clear and consistent program design remains important so households and employers can plan for and manage costs over time. This has long been a key consideration in legislative discussions around the program. California families and employers cannot afford policies that accelerate job loss or unnecessarily inflate our already high cost of living. I ask that ARB prioritize the goals of affordability and protecting jobs when considering the final regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian W. Jones".

Brian W. Jones  
Senate Minority Leader  
State Senator, 40<sup>th</sup> District