



April 29, 2026

**Chair Lauren Sanchez and Members**

California Air Resources Board  
 1001 I Street  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Support for a Strong California Cap-and-Invest Program**

Dear Chair Sanchez and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the undersigned Chambers of Commerce, ethnic business organizations, local business associations, and small business owners across California, we write to express our support for a strong and durable Cap-and-Invest program.

We are concerned that recently proposed changes to the program risk undermining support for small businesses that form the backbone of California’s economy, to the sole benefit of large oil companies. California’s broader business community depends on a competitive environment, and the strength of our economy depends on policies that reinforce this balance.

We are representative of California's economy – the oil industry is not. Our members represent employers and entrepreneurs rooted in communities that are helping drive us toward a better future for California. Many of these businesses operate on thin margins, serve working families directly, and are located in

neighborhoods that already bear a disproportionate share of pollution, poor air quality, extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and other climate-related harms. California Climate Investments reporting shows that these burdens are real and that state investments have been directed heavily toward disadvantaged communities and low-income communities and households.

For the business community, this is not an abstract climate debate. It is about whether California will continue to provide stable, predictable policy and practical investments that help businesses manage costs, modernize operations, and plan for the future. Cap-and-Invest helps create that certainty. It is a market-based framework that holds major polluters accountable while generating funding for utility bill relief, cleaner transportation, wildfire prevention, public health improvements, and community investments that strengthen the state's economy. Since the first appropriations were made in 2014, California Climate Investments programs have implemented more than \$12.8 billion, and cumulatively more than 590,000 projects are expected to reduce an estimated 116.1 million metric tons of climate pollution over their lifetimes.

A strong program matters especially in the communities our members serve. Disadvantaged communities already pay more when California fails to act on climate. They pay through higher energy burdens, dirtier air, more asthma and other health problems, more missed work and school days, greater exposure to heat and smoke, and higher vulnerability to floods, fires, and other disasters. Small businesses in these communities also pay the price through disrupted operations, lost revenue, higher insurance costs, workforce instability, and more fragile local economies. The costs of inaction are not theoretical. They are already showing up in the lives of workers, families, and small employers across California.

We also support Cap-and-Invest because it can help address affordability in practical ways. California has used these revenues to provide utility bill credits and other direct relief, and the state has continued to build on this approach through policies designed to save Californians billions on electric bills while stabilizing the broader energy system. For small businesses and working families alike, that kind of relief matters.

In addition, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund investments can help businesses and communities access the resources they need to finance energy and fleet upgrades, improve efficiency, reduce exposure to fuel volatility, and become more resilient in the face of rising climate and disaster risk. These investments support the long-term competitiveness of California businesses, especially small businesses that often have the least flexibility to absorb new costs on their own.

As you consider the future of this program, we urge CARB to adopt strong rules that preserve the integrity of Cap-and-Invest, provide market certainty, and ensure the program continues delivering meaningful benefits to the communities and businesses that need them most. Updates should be designed to avoid concentrating benefits among a narrow set of large emitters, while better supporting the small and local businesses our state is built upon. California's economy depends on healthy workers, resilient neighborhoods, and a policy environment that rewards planning, investment, and innovation. A strong Cap-and-Invest program supports all three without favoring large oil over the diverse businesses that power the state's economy.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julian Canete  
**California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**

Jazmine Advincula  
**CalAsian Chamber of Commerce**

MC Townsend  
**Regional Cal Black Chamber**

Garry Palon  
**Coalition of Filipino American Chambers of Commerce**

Ellen Rodriguez-Swing  
**Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of Cerritos (FAC3)**

Ruth Canlobo  
**Filipino American Chamber of Commerce Greater Los Angeles**

Mohammed Islam  
**South Asian Biz Alliance Network (SABAN)**

Femie Cupit  
**Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of Greater San Diego**

Mike Aqrawi  
**Middle Eastern and North American Chamber of Commerce  
Clever Community Development, Inc.  
NEWCOMERS SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT  
MARSHALL BNM LLC**

Kendra Devejian  
**Fresno Business Council**

Mike Ocasio  
**Small Business Development Corporation of Orange County**

Annie Nepomuceno  
**UPAAGLA**

Victor Tamashiro  
**BlueZone Health Solutions**

Amanda McCarty  
**Robin Hilton Land & Tree Company**

Robin Hilton, Founder  
**Del Mar Dog Rescue**

Wade Morrison, Owner  
**Apex Diesel Repair**

Frank Levy, Owner  
**Fix Auto Poway**

Angela Aqrawi  
**SD BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC**  
**MIKE'S HOLDINGS LLC**

Bassam Fathowi  
**MAPLEVIEW BNM LLC**

Mibras Romaya  
**SWEETWATER BNM LLC**

Marcy Palos  
**Restore LA-CDC**

Cecille Maristela  
**Substrata**

Jennifer Suyamin  
**Salon2000 by Je Gems**

Pastor Paul Zavala  
**Time in Destiny**

Pastor Allain Constantino  
**New Beginnings CDC**

Belina Calderon-Nernberg  
**1Heart Caregiver Services**

Sinan Aqrawi

**AAA GLOBAL TRADING INC  
FIRST FINANCE LENDING INC  
CLEVER INVESTOR, INC.**

Regeanie Corona  
**Advancing the Seed**

Tommy Casarez  
**Hearts on Fire**

Brian Kennedy  
**AmPac**

Den Lugtu  
**QUANTUM CLINICAL LABORATORY, INC.**

Jules Graeser  
**Prime Care**

Chad Nour  
**E.V.A Health**

Kris Abad  
**Ohana Senior Care**

Samir Zakir  
**Kayak Collection**

**Chuck Zannetti**  
**Optimist International**

Jay Ungos  
**XBN**

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Roya Afsharzada, MBA  
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**My Telecomm**

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**SPMS**

**MENA CC INC**

**Los Angeles African American Chamber**

**Filipino Chamber South Bay**