

Anthony Farao

Dear Members of the California Air Resources Board,

I want CARB to understand that many Californians, especially those of us living in the Central Valley, simply cannot afford more taxes on our gas and food. Families across our state are already feeling the pinch at the grocery store and in our monthly bills. Life has become very expensive, and these proposed regulations threaten to make it even more unaffordable.

Following Governor Newsom's signing of the cap-and-invest bill, CARB regulators are now moving quickly to implement policies that could function as a hidden gas tax. Some experts estimate these proposals could raise gas prices by \$0.40 to \$0.65 per gallon in the immediate term, with some projections suggesting increases of more than \$1.00 per gallon by 2030. These increases will not only affect fuel costs; they will drive up the cost of groceries, transportation, and essential services that depend on trucking and fuel.

Central Valley residents and lower-income families will be disproportionately harmed. Many of us must commute longer distances for work, education, and healthcare. Increasing fuel costs places an even heavier burden on households that are already struggling with the high cost of living in California.

I urge CARB to slow down and rethink these actions. Why the rush to implement policies that will further raise the cost of living for the very people who can least afford it? Please consider the real impacts on working families and rural communities before moving forward.

Do not place additional financial burdens on Californians who are already struggling under the weight of rising taxes and living costs.