

Clair Brown

Good Morning, I am Clair Brown, an Economics Professor at UC Berkeley.

My research team analyzed retail gas prices at the pump, and found that more allowances to refineries do NOT result in lower gas prices. However, Subsidizing refineries with allowances does increase their already high profits and payouts to executives.

I live in Richmond near the Chevron refinery, and they are not good neighbors. For example, Chevron fought installing wet scrubbers, which is an industry standard to reduce toxic emissions that harm nearby communities. Chevron has made false economic statements in arguing that additional regulations will result in their leaving California. Meanwhile Chevron's toxic emissions cause health problems, especially for children and elders.

CARB needs to do better at reducing refinery GHG emissions and not reward refineries with more allowances and MDI. These subsidies ensure the refineries will continue to produce dirty oil products indefinitely with vulnerable AB-617 communities suffering from health problems and receiving inadequate GGRF funds to help them improve air quality and public health.

CARB's current plan is a big handout to Big oil and a big step back from helping communities. I urge the Board to direct CARB to end refinery allowances and remove the MDI, to meet climate goals and protect the public health of our frontline communities.

Thank you for your service to California residents and environment.