

# Steve Hewitt

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Cap-and-Invest Fuel Cost Increases

Dear Chair and Board Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed changes to California's Cap-and-Invest program that would significantly increase the cost of gasoline and diesel for residents and businesses across the state.

While I support responsible environmental stewardship and efforts to reduce emissions, the current proposal places a disproportionate financial burden on working families and small businesses who rely on transportation and service vehicles to earn a living.

As a business operator in California, fuel is not a discretionary expense. It is a core operating cost. Service companies, contractors, delivery drivers, tradespeople, and countless others depend on reliable and affordable fuel to serve customers and keep our local economies functioning. Increasing fuel costs through regulatory policy will inevitably lead to higher operating expenses that must be passed on to consumers.

California already has some of the highest fuel prices in the nation. Additional increases through Cap-and-Invest will compound the financial strain on residents who are already facing rising costs for housing, utilities, insurance, and everyday goods. For many households, transportation is not optional—especially in communities where public transit options are limited.

Policies that aim to reduce emissions should balance environmental goals with economic reality. A regulatory approach that substantially raises fuel prices risks harming the very communities it intends to help, particularly lower-income households and small businesses.

I respectfully urge the Board to reconsider policies that would further increase gasoline and diesel costs and instead pursue solutions that encourage innovation, infrastructure improvements, and practical pathways to emissions reductions without imposing excessive costs on Californians.

Thank you for considering public input on this important issue.

Respectfully,

Steve Hewitt