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Climate leaders know how important California's Cap-and-Invest program is for addressing the climate emergency, and for funding climate resiliency and mitigation programs. Last year's reauthorization was a high priority for advocates, local leaders, regional leaders, and state leaders alike.

Now, CARB is considering implementation of the Manufacturing Decarbonization Incentive (MDI) mechanism. MDI would jeopardize California's climate targets, as well as billions of dollars in funding that should support public climate investments (affordable transit-oriented housing and major public transit projects, transit services, fare-free and discounted transit passes, and community air quality initiatives).

Rather than removing dangerous pollution from our air, CARB proposes adding 118 million new allowances. This allows for more pollution rather than less, and jeopardize billions of dollars in funding for the aforementioned projects that make California more affordable by lowering rents and transportation costs.

The truth is that all the benefits would go to Big Polluters, including the state's electricity and gas utility companies and some of the most profitable companies in the world. Californians would pay all the costs, and CARB would be weakening one of the most successful emissions caps in the world.

Addressing the climate emergency was always going to be painful. We can't just give up. We have to stay the course, and use programs such as our successful Cap-and-Invest program to ease the economic transition and the green energy transition. To do otherwise means putting the short-term economic convenience of polluters over the suffering that will be endured by our youth who will have to live with the climate catastrophe that CARB is supposed to be preventing.

I urge you to immediately abandon plans to implement the MDI mechanism now.