

Farao Solutions LLC (Anthony Farao)

Dear Members of the California Air Resources Board,

As a small business owner in California, I am deeply concerned about the rapid push to implement new regulations under the cap-and-invest program that could significantly increase fuel costs. Businesses and families across our state are already feeling the strain of rising prices for groceries, transportation, utilities, and basic services. Additional fuel costs will only make these challenges worse.

Experts estimate that these proposals could increase gas prices by \$0.40 to \$0.65 per gallon in the near term, with some projections suggesting increases of over \$1.00 per gallon by 2030. For businesses that rely on transportation, logistics, and commuting employees, these increases translate directly into higher operating costs. When fuel costs rise, the price of everything rises with it.

In the Central Valley, the impact will be even more severe. Our region depends on longer commutes, trucking, and agriculture-based supply chains. These proposed policies will disproportionately affect rural communities, small businesses, and working families who already face some of the highest costs of living in the country.

I urge CARB to slow down and reconsider the pace and impact of these regulations. Policies that significantly increase the cost of fuel should be carefully evaluated to ensure they do not unintentionally harm the very communities that are already struggling.

California businesses want to be part of responsible environmental solutions, but those solutions must also consider economic sustainability for businesses, workers, and families.

Please take the time to fully evaluate the economic consequences before moving forward.