

Nicole Nicks

Dear California Air Resources Board Members, My name is Nicole Nicks, and I am a resident and registered voter in Visalia, California. As a California citizen, I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed amendments to the Cap-and-Invest regulation (formerly Cap-and-Trade) currently under consideration. These amendments would significantly tighten the emissions cap by removing millions of allowances from circulation between 2027 and 2030, with further aggressive reductions aligned to 2045 climate targets. While I support reasonable efforts to address climate change, this specific proposal is unacceptable because it will impose severe and unnecessary economic hardship on everyday Californians. Reliable analyses, including warnings from Chevron and independent energy experts, indicate that these changes could drive gasoline prices up by more than \$1 per gallon by 2030 on top of California's already sky-high fuel costs, which frequently exceed \$5 per gallon and sometimes approach \$8 in certain areas. For working families, small business owners, commuters, and anyone who relies on a vehicle for daily life, school drop-offs, grocery runs, or getting to work, this represents a direct and regressive tax increase that hits hardest on lower- and middle-income households. Further refinery closures, job losses (potentially hundreds of thousands across the energy sector), and increased dependence on imported fuels would compound the problem, making our energy supply less secure and more volatile. These outcomes contradict the goal of protecting affordability and equity for California residents. CARB must prioritize cost-effective emissions reductions that do not disproportionately burden consumers through higher transportation and goods prices. I urge the Board to reject or substantially revise these proposed amendments to avoid exacerbating the affordability crisis already facing millions of Californians. Thank you for considering my comments. I respectfully request that the Board account for the real-world economic impacts on citizens like me before any final decision.

Sincerely,

Nicole Nicks