

Jason Walsh

Dear California Air Resources Board Members and Staff, I am writing as an individual resident of Lakeside, California, to strongly oppose the proposed amendments to the California Cap-and-Invest Program (formerly Cap-and-Trade). My name is Jason Walsh and I can be reached via my Email address above or at the contact in information provided in my submission. As a concerned citizen, I reject any changes that would effectively increase fees or taxes on gasoline and other fuels, which these amendments appear poised to do through tighter allowance budgets, reduced offsets, and other mechanisms that will drive up compliance costs for fuel suppliers—costs that will inevitably be passed on to consumers like me. California's gas prices are already among the highest in the nation, exacerbating the cost-of-living crisis for working families, commuters, and small businesses. The proposed reductions in allowance budgets (removing over 264 million allowances through 2045) and limits on offsets (capping them at 6% of compliance obligations) will accelerate decarbonization at the expense of affordability. While I support environmental goals in principle, these amendments fail to adequately protect low- and middle-income households from higher energy bills and transportation costs. The program's linkage with Québec and potential expansions do little to offset the burden on Californians, especially in areas like Lakeside CA where public transit options are limited and driving is a necessity. Furthermore, the economic impact analysis underestimates the ripple effects: a projected \$124 billion in direct costs could lead to job losses in emissions-intensive industries, higher goods prices due to increased transportation fees, and reduced economic growth. Instead of imposing steeper fees disguised as market mechanisms, CARB should prioritize incentives for innovation, such as expanded tax credits for electric vehicles or subsidies for clean energy adoption, without punishing everyday drivers. I urge the Board to reject these amendments in their current form and reconsider approaches that balance climate action with economic equity. Thank you for considering my comments. Sincerely,
Jason Walsh