Chonita Chew

United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County
Empowering Seniors ♦ Enriching Youth ♦ Enhancing Community
7200 Bancroft Avenue, Suite #270, Oakland, CA 94605 P: (510)729-0852 Fx: (510)729-0796

May 27, 2026

Lauren Sanches, Chair
California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Impacts on Seniors – Proposed Amendments to the Cap-and-Invest Program

Dear Chair Sanchez and California Air Resources Board Members,

The United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County is writing to express our profound concern regarding the proposed amendments to the Cap-and-Invest program scheduled for the May 28–29 CARB Board meeting. While the proposed amendments to the Cap and-Invest program were designed to help improve affordability, the impacts to key programs could actually make the affordability crisis worse for seniors.

CARB's proposed amendments threaten to "zero out" annual funding for critical programs, potentially resulting in a $1.65 billion annual loss statewide. These impacts will be felt across the tier 3 investments for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), including the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP), the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program, and the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program. While this redesign to the Cap-and-Invest is designed to provide relief for consumer's utility bills, defunding these critical GGRF programs will make it more difficult to live without relying on an expensive personal vehicle and without the support of the AHSC program, the progress on developing affordable housing throughout the state may stall, resulting in higher housing costs for seniors on a fixed income.

United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County is a grassroots, multi-ethnic, intergenerational nonprofit organization; for more than 40 years USOAC has focused on the issues and concerns of older adults living in Oakland and Alameda County.

We respectfully ask the California Air Resources Board to pause taking action at their May 28th hearing and explore alternatives to its Cap-and-Invest proposal that will not unduly harm the nearly 250,000 seniors who live in Alameda County.

Sincerely,

Chonita Chew
Chonita Chew Travel Trainer & Community Organizer

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