

Bret Andrews

Re: CARB changes to cap and trade

Dear CARB Board:

It is my understanding that the The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is proposing to use 'cap and invest' funds for giveaways to industry instead of customer credits on electricity bills or community investment programs for cleaner air, safe housing, and accessible transit. The new program will also fail to get the emissions reductions we need to reach our climate goals and improve air quality.

As a physician and expert in the health effects of air pollution, especially on our most vulnerable populations, I am very aware of the consequences of failing to wean off fossil fuels. Sadly the current system and your proposed changes don't reduce our fossil fuel dependence.

Fossil fuel pollution harms nearly every system in our body, causing hundreds of thousands of premature deaths and increasing the risk of asthma, COPD, heart attack and stroke, neurological damage, and adverse reproductive outcomes. The direct health harms from fossil fuel pollution along with the health impacts of climate change are costing hundreds of billions of dollars in health-related costs in the U.S. each year. That's on top of the nearly \$1 trillion in damages from more frequent and intense climate-related disasters--extreme heat, floods, wildfires--that cause deaths, illness, and destruction of homes and communities.

Right now, Americans are paying for these costs while struggling to make ends meet as they face skyrocketing increases in utility, insurance, taxes and healthcare costs. Meanwhile, the fossil fuel industry continues to rake in massive profits. This is a driver of climate inflation and the affordability crisis.

Please:

- (1) Make the "cap" lower to decrease emissions and meet California's climate goals;
- (2) reduce giveaways to the oil and gas industry, especially by eliminating the new "manufacturing decarbonization incentive"; and
- (3) increase electricity bill credits.

(4) create tangible emissions reductions benefits for Californians by reducing allowances (aka increase program stringency);

(6) protect Californians by requiring direct environmental benefits to California;

(7) support better price protections for ratepayers;

(8) reject benefits for dangerous false solutions like dairy methane and carbon capture and sequestration; and

(9) honor the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee's (EJAC) recommendations and heed their calls.

Please help create a more meaningful program.

Thank you,

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