

Sean Hakam

Dear Chair Sanchez and Members of the Board,

My name is Sean Hakam, and I am a resident of Santa Ana. I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed amendments to the Cap-and-Invest regulation before the Board today.

Cap-and-Invest should be simple: cap pollution and invest the proceeds in programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve life for Californians. The proposed approach moves in the wrong direction if it weakens funding for transit, affordable housing, clean air, drinking water, and other climate investments while providing additional benefits to large polluting industries.

That is not climate leadership. That is a retreat from the purpose of the program.

Transit and affordable housing near transit are core climate strategies. They reduce vehicle miles traveled, lower transportation costs, support working families, and give people a real alternative to driving. These programs are especially important in communities like Santa Ana and across Southern California, where housing costs, long commutes, air pollution, and transportation costs are already major burdens.

Reducing funding for transit service, clean buses, lower fares, rail infrastructure, and affordable housing near transit would directly undermine California's climate goals. It would also punish the people and communities who are actually trying to live in a less car-dependent, lower-emission way.

CARB should not shift public climate dollars away from proven public programs in order to further subsidize large polluting industries. The purpose of Cap-and-Invest is not to protect polluters from the cost of pollution. The purpose is to reduce emissions and invest in California's future.

I urge CARB to reject or substantially revise the proposed amendments and preserve strong funding for greenhouse gas reduction programs, including transit, affordable housing, clean air, and drinking water. California should be investing more in these programs, not weakening them.

Please protect the integrity of Cap-and-Invest and ensure this program continues to serve the public, not the polluters.

Sincerely,
Sean Hakam
Santa Ana, CA