

Brian Pinkus

Dear CARB,

I am deeply concerned about the ongoing closures of refineries in California, which are exacerbating our energy challenges.

Recent announcements, such as Valero's planned shutdown of its Benicia refinery in April 2026 and Phillips 66's closure of its Los Angeles-area facility in December 2025, represent a significant loss—equivalent to about 20% of the state's refining capacity over the next 18 months.

These closures will result in thousands of job losses and increase our dependence on imported oil, making our energy supply far less green and vulnerable to global disruptions.

California already imports around 70% of its crude oil from foreign sources, including countries like Iraq, Brazil, Ecuador, and Saudi Arabia. Relying heavily on imports from geopolitically unstable regions not only raises security concerns but also exposes consumers to higher and more volatile prices. Instead of policies that accelerate these closures, we need measures that promote energy independence and affordability.

This situation mirrors the crisis in California's homeowners insurance market, where escalating costs and limited availability due to wildfire risks have left many residents unable to secure coverage. As a result, Californians are buckling under the weight of skyrocketing living expenses, including some of the highest energy prices in the nation. We cannot afford to compound these issues by driving away energy producers.

I urge you not to approve or support policies that further burden our refineries and energy sector. Instead, prioritize initiatives that reduce energy costs, encourage investment in California-based production, and protect jobs. Continuing down this path risks severe economic harm to our state—let's reverse course before it's too late.

Sincerely,

Brian

Riverside, California