



.. HIGHLAND ..
Area Chamber of Commerce
Your Partner for Growth



Hesperia Chamber
of commerce



MURRIETA/WILDOMAR
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Redlands
Chamber of Commerce
SINCE 1893



May 6, 2020

The Honorable Laura Friedman
Chair, Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
Legislative Office Building, 1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2737 (Garcia, Cristina): Community emissions reduction programs – OPPOSE

Dear Chair Friedman:

On behalf of the above business organizations in the Inland Empire, we write in opposition to AB 2011, which would prohibit an air district that contains a community selected for action under AB 617 from authorizing a new major source of pollution or revisions to an existing source without requiring the major source to mitigate the increased emissions directly in the affected communities.

Places AB 617 Communities at a Competitive Disadvantaged: The AB 617 program was intended to improve the air quality of impacted communities. However, AB 2737 uses it as a way to stifle economic growth in communities that often times face challenges that extend beyond their environment. During meetings of the San Bernardino Community Steering Committee, it was clear that a significant source of the pollution in the city was not a result of direct sources but rather a cumulative effect of the various sources in Southern California. Placing this requirement will not improve air quality because projects could still be located in neighboring cities in which case the AB 617 community will still experience the same air quality impacts but receive none of the benefit. In light of the economic impact that these communities have experienced as a result of the

COVID-19 pandemic, any recovery would be even more difficult because of the added regulatory hurdles.

Endangers a Major Economic Project in the Region: This bill would have a significant impact on the Eastgate Air Cargo Logistics Center planned for San Bernardino International Airport. The project was recently approved by the Federal Aviation Administration, clearing the way for a nearly 660,000-square-foot sorting facility and two 25,000-square-foot support buildings to be raised at the former Norton Air Force Base. It was opposed by a number of labor and environmental justice organizations because it did not contain a community benefits agreement. While the opponents were not successful in stopping the project, AB 2737 appears to be another attempt to force the project to adopt a community benefits agreement under the guise of improving air quality.

The COVID-19 pandemic is going to have lasting impacts on our economy. Now more than ever, we need to support industries and jobs that will be around and provide good paying jobs. The logistics industry has demonstrated its importance not just for California but for the world. It is an industry that will continue to grow and provide opportunity for economic advancement. AB 2737 endangers a project that is critical to the growth of that industry in Southern California, but more importantly it removes employment opportunities for thousands of individuals in our region.

For the reasons stated above and others, we oppose AB 2011. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our position in greater detail, please contact Luis Portillo at 909-944-2201 or by email at lportillo@ieep.com. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Janice Moore
Apple Valley Chamber of
Commerce

Bette Rader
Beaumont Chamber of
Commerce

Zeb Welborn
Chino Valley Chamber of
Commerce

Gloria Martinez
Fontana Chamber of
Commerce

Joshua Bonner
Greater Coachella Valley
Chamber of Commerce

Cyndi Lemke
Hemet San Jacinto Chamber
of Commerce

Shannon Shannon
Hesperia Chamber of
Commerce

Andrea De Leon
Highland Chamber of
Commerce

Paul Granillo
Inland Empire Economic
Partnership

Oscar Valdepeña
Moreno Valley Chamber of
Commerce

Patrick Ellis
Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber
of Commerce

Jennifer Walker
Perris Valley Chamber of
Commerce

Monique Manzanares
Pomona Chamber of
Commerce

Robert Hufnagel
Rancho Cucamonga Chamber
of Commerce

John Mills
Redlands Chamber of
Commerce

Dori Jared-Ferranto
Upland Chamber of
Commerce

Mark Creffield
Victor Valley Chamber of
Commerce

cc: Assembly Member Cristina Garcia