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California State Senate

SENATOR
DR. RICHARD PAN
SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT



CHAIR
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
& RETIREMENT
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
#3 ON HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
EDUCATION
BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

September 18, 2018

Mary D. Nichols, Chair
Members of the California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Community Air Protection Program – Sacramento Region

Dear Chair & Board Members:

As a pediatrician and the Senator representing the Sacramento region, I wish to express my support for the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (Air District) collaborative efforts to implement the new legislative mandates under AB 617 (C. Garcia, Chapter 136, Statutes of 2017) through the Community Air Protection Program (CAPP). These new community-focused and community-driven actions will be instrumental in improving public health in our communities by reducing highly localized emissions and disproportionate burdens from air pollution. Some of these overburdened and disadvantaged communities are found in my district and this program can greatly enhance the lives of my constituents.

Health requires more than access to a doctor; it depends on a healthy environment. As a pediatrician, I treated many children with asthma that would be improved if they lived in an area with better air quality. As both a physician and legislator, I have applied social determinants of health to advocate for social and physical environments that promote good health. The Sacramento region needs CAPP to improve air quality in our disadvantaged neighborhoods.

At your September 27th Board meeting, you will be deliberating on the CAPP requirements and the selection of initial communities for the community air monitoring and/or community emission reduction programs. CARB staff has agreed with the Air District's recommendation to consider one community in the Sacramento region, South Sacramento-Florin, for year one. I strongly support this recommendation and encourage CARB to consider the Sacramento region when determining incentive funding allocations in future years as well.

The Air District analysis shows ten communities in the Sacramento region that are disproportionately impacted by air pollution and may need AB 617 protections. Without adequate and on-going state resources for implementation and emission-reduction incentives, abatement of the harmful air pollution impacts on the people living in these communities in my region will be difficult to achieve.

I look forward to continued dialogue and your favorable consideration of the needs in the Sacramento region as we move ahead. Please reach out to my office at 916-651-4006 with any questions.

Respectfully,



Dr. Richard Pan,
Senate, 6th District