April 23, 2018

Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Hon. Toni G. Atkins
Senate President pro Tempore
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Hon. Anthony Rendon
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: $75 million for AB 617 Implementation

Dear Governor Brown, Pro Tem Atkins, and Speaker Rendon:

AB 617 (C. Garcia, 2017) requires new community air monitoring programs and community emission reduction plans, as well as emissions inventory work and a new program for best available retrofit control technology on stationary sources. The bill assigns these tasks to the local air districts in which the communities are located, with the California Air Resources Board providing oversight and coordination, and is intended to reduce air pollution to improve community health.

The FY 2017-18 budget provided $27 million to the California Air Resources Board and local air districts to begin implementation of AB 617, but the proposed FY 2018-19 budget includes no funding for this purpose. The California Air Resources Board will finalize statewide plans to guide implementation this fall, and local air districts will need extensive resources to cover costs of outreach and partnership with affected communities, purchasing necessary hardware, renting and leasing space for monitors, laboratory analysis of collected data, and preparation and tracking of the emission reduction plans.
AB 617 represents the most significant advancement in air pollution laws since the passage of the California Clean Air Act in 1988. Adequate ongoing funding is essential if this new effort is to succeed. The undersigned Members of the Assembly and Senate respectfully request your consideration of a $75 million budget item for local air districts to maintain our commitment to California communities and fully fund the implementation of AB 617.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. If you have any questions about this request, I can be reached at (916) 319-2014.

Sincerely,

Timothy S. Grayson
Assemblymember, 14th District

Eduardo Garcia
Assemblymember, 56th District

cc: Senator Holly Mitchell
Senator Bob Wieckowski
Assemblymember Philip Ting
Assemblymember Richard Bloom