

March 31, 2011

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0505

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0505

Dear Senator Boxer,

We, the undersigned California cities and governments, urge you to support the EPA's ability to enforce clean air standards. We believe that efforts currently circulating in Congress to gut the EPA's authority will result in negative environmental and health impacts, and limit innovation and investment in clean technologies.

New rules under the Clean Air Act, including the Clean Air Transport Rule (CATR) and the Toxics Rule, will mandate reductions in toxic power plant emissions and stimulate investment in clean energy technology. These reductions will reduce emissions by millions of tons per year and prevent 14,000 to 36,000 premature deaths.

California has long been a national leader in environmental protection, and as a result we've benefited from a fast-growing clean tech sector. Strong clean air standards send a clear regulatory signal to dirty plants that they must clean up their act, a process which spurs innovation and development in clean energy technology.

Studies have shown that the benefits of these regulations far outweigh the costs. We have a responsibility to our citizens to do everything we can to protect their air supply and encourage harmful power plants to adopt better technology.

Please join us in supporting the authority of the EPA by opposing efforts to limit these critical clean air standards.

Sincerely,

AGENDA ITEM # 11

## SUPPORT THE EPA: PROTECT CLEAN AIR STANDARDS

Members of Congress are trying to limit the EPA's authority to regulate emissions and hazardous air pollutants.<sup>1</sup> Join us in our effort to uphold the Clean Air Act and support the EPA!

### THE CLEAN AIR ACT: A HISTORY OF SUCCESS

- Clean Air Regulations saved **160,000** lives and prevented more than **100,000** hospital visits in 2010
- Air pollution has been reduced by more than **60%** since 1970
- Electricity **production is up** and **prices are down** since Clean Air Act Amendments in 1990
- Since 1970, the **benefits** of the Clean Air Act outweigh the **costs** by more than **30 to 1**<sup>2</sup>

### NEW REGULATIONS

#### **Clean Air Transport Rule (CATR)**

The proposed Clean Air Transport Rule will require reductions in sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions. These pollutants create fine particles and ground level ozone that spread across state boundaries, making it hard for states to comply with federal clean air standards. This rule would reduce power plant SO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 71% and power plant NO<sub>x</sub> emissions by 52%.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAP)**

In March, the EPA will propose updated regulations for life-threatening hazardous air pollution, including mercury (HAP). These modernized regulations will require coal plants to comply with new standards and improve public health.<sup>4</sup>

### HEALTH BENEFITS

- The CATR regulation will prevent **14,000 to 36,000** premature deaths in 2014<sup>5</sup>
- In 2014, this proposed rule will prevent **23,000** nonfatal heart attacks, **26,000** hospital visits, and **240,000** cases of aggravated asthma

### ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- The Clean Air Transport Rule will create between **\$120 and \$290** billion in annual health and welfare benefits in 2014, including the value of avoided premature death<sup>6</sup>
- A recent University of Massachusetts report found that these regulations will result in **290,000** new jobs **annually for 5 years**, as companies invest in modernizing and making their plants compliant<sup>7</sup>
- OMB has concluded that Clean Air regulations provide **\$4 to \$8** in benefits for every **\$1** spent on compliance
- These regulations will promote **innovation** and **investment** in the clean energy technologies

### IMPACT FOR CALIFORNIA

California is a national leader in environmental protection. By supporting the EPA, we show our commitment to cleaner air, a better environment, and improved public health.

### TAKE ACTION

Urge your Senators and Representatives to support the EPA's ability to regulate harmful emissions and hazardous air pollutants. Write a letter in support of the new rules to let them know you want the EPA to regulate dirty power plants and move the United States to a clean energy economy.

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<sup>1</sup> *E.P.A. Faces First Volley From the House*, The New York Times

<sup>2</sup> *So What Does The Clean Air Act Do?* The White House

<sup>3</sup> *CATR fact sheet*, EPA

<sup>4</sup> *EPA's Power Plant Rules Would Spur Job Creation—Report*, The New York Times

<sup>5</sup> *CATR fact sheet*, EPA

<sup>6</sup> *CATR fact sheet*, EPA

<sup>7</sup> *New Jobs, Cleaner Air*, University of Massachusetts Political Economy Research Institute