

**RESOLUTION NO.**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSITION 23, AN EFFORT TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF AB 32**

**WHEREAS**, any official position of the Town of Fairfax with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the Fairfax Town Council; and,

**WHEREAS**, four years ago the State of California passed AB 32, a clean air law that holds polluters accountable for their emissions and requires them to reduce air pollution that threatens human health and that contributes to climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, AB 32 was widely supported by businesses, labor groups, environmentalists, and health organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, AB 32 builds on decades of state policies on green energy, and has launched California to the forefront of the clean technology industry - sparking innovation and clean energy businesses that are creating new green jobs in California; and

**WHEREAS**, groups opposed to AB 32, including large oil companies, have circulated initiative petitions that propose a ballot proposition that would suspend the implementation of AB 32 unless California's unemployment rate were to drop to a fixed level that has rarely been achieved; and

**WHEREAS**, suspending AB 32 would create more air pollution in California and would threaten public health, including instances of asthma, lung disease, and premature deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, suspending AB 32 would cause increased healthcare costs and loss of productivity in the California economy; and,

**WHEREAS**, suspending AB 32 would encourage the price of fossil fuels to rise and provide a further incentive to extract these resources in increasingly hazardous fashion as demonstrated by the unfolding calamity in the Gulf of Mexico; and,

**WHEREAS**, suspending AB 32 would also devastate California's newly emerging clean energy industry that is currently providing new green jobs to the state while developing wind, solar, and other renewable energies and clean technologies that will reduce energy costs and dependence on non-renewable, polluting and increasingly scarce fossil fuels;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the Fairfax Town Council opposes Proposition 23 and any initiatives and/or ballot propositions designed to delay implementation of AB 32 which would suspend AB 32's air pollution control laws that require major polluters to report and reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Fairfax Town Council held on July 7, 2010, by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:

ATTEST:

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Lew Tremaine, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judy Anderson, Town Clerk

**AGENDA ITEM # 14**



[www.StopDirtyEnergyProp.com](http://www.StopDirtyEnergyProp.com)

## Deceptive Proposition Would Kill California Clean Air Standards & Kill Clean Energy Jobs

Two Texas oil companies are spending millions to push a deceptive ballot proposition that will kill California clean energy and air pollution reduction standards. Four years ago, California passed a clean air law – AB 32 – that holds polluters accountable and requires them to reduce air pollution that threatens human health and contributes to global climate change. This law has launched California to the forefront of the clean technology industry – sparking innovation and clean energy businesses that are creating hundreds of thousands of new California jobs.

The tragic oil spill in the Gulf reinforces the urgent need to reduce our dependence on costly, dangerous oil. But the oil companies' proposition will allow polluters to avoid our state's clean energy standards, kill competition and jobs from California's clean technology companies, and keep us addicted to dirty oil.

### *The Texas Oil Companies' Dirty Energy Proposition is deceptive.*

- The primary funders of the ballot proposition are the Valero and Tesoro Texas oil companies. They are among the nation's biggest polluters, and their California oil refineries are among the top ten polluters in our state.
- Valero and Tesoro claim their proposition will only "suspend" AB 32's air pollution and clean energy standards until California's economy gets better. In fact, the **"Dirty Energy Proposition" will repeal our clean energy law.**
  - The fine print reveals their plan is to kill these standards by prohibiting them from being enforced unless unemployment drops to a fixed level that has rarely ever been achieved.

### *The Dirty Energy Proposition would create more air pollution in California and threaten public health.*

- Air pollution is a major threat to public health in California, with alarming rates of asthma and lung disease, especially among children. Each year, California's air pollution crisis contributes to 19,000 premature deaths, hundreds of thousands of asthma attacks, and thousands of trips to the hospital for California families.<sup>1</sup>
- This proposition will let the Texas oil companies and other polluters off the hook – drastically increasing air pollution and public health risks.
- That's why the proposition is strongly opposed by the American Lung Assn. in California and AARP.

### *The Dirty Energy Proposition will kill clean technology jobs, innovation and billions of dollars of investment in California.*

- The Texas oil companies want to continue California's addiction to oil. Their measure will kill competition from California's newly emerging clean energy businesses – wind, solar and other renewable energy and clean technologies that will reduce energy costs and our dependence on fossil fuels.

(more)

*The Dirty Energy Proposition will kill clean technology jobs, innovation and billions of dollars of investment in California (cont).*

- If we roll back our clean energy standards, California will lose hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in investments to other states.
  - According to California's nonpartisan State Legislative Analyst's Office, rolling back AB 32 could "dampen additional investments in clean energy technologies or in so-called 'green jobs' by private firms, thereby resulting in less economic activity."
- Clean energy businesses and technologies are exceptional bright spots in our economy. AB 32 has put California in a unique position to lead the clean energy and technology market, both in the United States and abroad.
  - **500,000 employees work in clean technology or green jobs in California.**<sup>ii</sup>
  - Since 2005, California green jobs have grown 10 times faster than the statewide average.<sup>iii</sup>
  - California's clean technology sector received \$9 billion cumulative venture capital investment from 2005-09, including \$2.1 billion in investment capital in 2009 – more than five times the investment in our nearest competitor, Massachusetts.<sup>iv</sup>
  - There are more than 12,000 clean tech companies in California.<sup>v</sup>

*The Dirty Energy Proposition will increase dependence on oil and increase costs to California consumers.*

- The tragic spill in the Gulf has reinforced that we must move to cleaner sources of energy to reduce our dependence on costly, dirty oil.
- The Dirty Energy Proposition will result in greater use of oil in California and increase the risk of accidents like that in the Gulf Coast.
- By killing AB 32, the Dirty Energy Proposition will not only hurt competition from California clean energy businesses, it will also reduce consumer choices by making alternatives to fossil fuels much more expensive for consumers.
- By keeping us dependent on fossil fuels, this initiative will also increase household **electricity costs in California by 33%**. These added costs will **reduce economic output in California by more than \$80 billion** and cost over a half million jobs by 2020.<sup>v</sup>

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<sup>i</sup>California Air Resources Board(CARB), December 2008, *AB 32 Scoping Plan*

<sup>ii</sup>Employment Development Department – Labor Market Information Division, *California's Green Economy*, April, 2010.

<sup>iii</sup>"Many Shades of Green," Collaborative Economics and Next 10, Dec. 2009.

<sup>iv</sup><http://cleantech.com>

<sup>v</sup>David Roland-Holst, UC Berkeley, "Energy Prices and California's Economic Security," Next 10, Oct. 2009.