



FLOOR ALERT

CALIFORNIA LABOR STRONGLY SUPPORTS: AB 398 & AB 617

CAP & TRADE PROGRAM EXTENSION/AIR QUALITY: POLLUTION REDUCTION

July 12, 2017

The California Labor Movement, representing over 2 million union workers, strongly supports AB 398/AB 617. Combined, these measures will once again establish California’s global leadership in fighting climate change. These bills extend the cap and trade program and ensure that California will meet its SB 32 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets. Just as important, for the first time, California will begin to directly attack the air quality problems that afflict communities most impacted by pollution.

The extension of the cap and trade program will generate much-needed funds for critical programs and projects such as: high-speed rail, affordable housing, transit oriented development, transit capital projects, energy and water efficiency projects, natural resources and waste diversion, urban forestry projects, and more. These and other important Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund projects are financed by the auction proceeds of the existing cap and trade program and are strictly required to maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities throughout California.

These bills ensure that refineries and other stationary sources must take the steps needed to meet the 2030 GHG reduction goals and establish a stringent air pollution monitoring and reduction program in the highest priority areas while also expediting strategies to reduce emissions and toxic air contaminants and schedules to update facilities with the best available retrofit control technology.

These bills are aligned to continue California’s global leadership in reducing GHG and air pollution and to ensure such policies are fairly implemented and create economic benefits statewide. Undeniably, the agreement reached on this bill package will improve air and water quality, create jobs, and boost our economy. These benefits, both environmental and economic, are already reaching regions across California, including some of the state’s most disadvantaged communities which are most commonly affected by the negative impacts of pollution.

This package increases program oversight and equity in its implementation to reach all disadvantaged communities while continuing to advance the state’s environmental goals which have created tens of thousands of good paying union jobs.

WE STRONGLY URGE YOUR SUPPORT OF AB 398 & AB 617!