



June 1, 2016

The Honorable Richard Pan
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SUPPORT SB1161 (Allen) - Climate Science Truth and Accountability Act

Dear Senator Pan,

The Center for Environmental Health and the undersigned organizations represent public health organizations with extensive collective experience working with health professionals in supporting health protective policies. We are writing in strong support for, and urge the Legislature to pass, Senate Bill 1161 (Allen). Climate change is impacting California's economy, environment, and public health, and it is essential to hold fossil fuel companies accountable for supporting and providing deceiving information to Californians about the current and future impacts of anthropogenic climate change at the cost of public health.

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has found that increasing temperatures in California will lead to increased deaths, greater risk of infant mortality, and an increase in emergency room visits putting a burden and cost on Californians. Additionally, the California Climate Change Center, established by the California Energy Commission, determined that the populations most at risk from the impacts of anthropogenic climate change are some of California's most vulnerable residents, including our children and the socially and economically disadvantaged. As reported in the American Lung Association's 2016 *State of the Air* report, climate change is slowing California's progress toward healthy air through warming temperatures, droughts, heat waves and wildfires which all create conditions for poor air quality and have devastating impacts on lung health. To put the cost of anthropogenic climate change into perspective, the Pacific Institute estimates that sea-level rise will cost California \$100 billion dollars in damage to infrastructure and put at risk 55 healthcare facilities and the communities they serve.

SB 1161 addresses new evidence that fossil fuels companies made billions of dollars in profits while carrying out "unfair or deceptive acts" while California residents face increased illnesses and healthcare costs due to climate change. We urge you to vote in favor of SB 1161 (Allen) to provide justice to the State of California by allowing the Attorney General the time necessary to investigate and to hold California's, and the world's, largest polluters accountable for any efforts that delayed action on climate change.

Sincerely,

Sue Chiang, MPH, MPP
Pollution Prevention Director
Center for Environmental Health



Joel Ervice
Associate Director
Regional Asthma Management and
Prevention



Bonnie Holmes-Gen
Senior Director, Air Quality and Climate
Change
American Lung Association in California



Linda Rudolph, MD, MPH
Director
Center for Climate Change and Health (Public
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