



SB 32 Passes Appropriations Committee; Major Issues Remain Unresolved

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Californians for Affordable and Reliable Energy (CARE), a coalition of businesses, community organizations and local elected officials, released the following statement on SB 32:

Last week, SB 32, a bill designed to establish a new greenhouse gas target for 2030 passed out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee and is making its way to the Assembly Floor to undergo one of the most contentious votes of this legislative session. “Many of California’s leading large and small business organizations have attempted to resolve major issues in in the state’s climate policy to make it cost-effective and flexible,” said Dorothy Rothrock, co-chair of the CARE coalition and President of the California Manufacturers & Technology Association. “Unfortunately SB 32 still doesn’t address the most serious and costly flaws in the current system. Californians deserve a climate change program that protects economic opportunity as well as the State’s global environmental goals.”

SB 32 grants unlimited authority to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), an unelected state agency, creating a number of accountability and responsibility concerns. The bill passes authority to CARB without legislative oversight and engagement in a process that would significantly impact California consumers and businesses. CARE calls on Assembly Members to proceed cautiously and maintain authority over programs that will have a dramatic impact on local economies.

Additionally, there have been serious questions raised about the effectiveness of the Cap and Trade Program revenue spending. Before lawmakers move forward with even stricter mandates, there must be assurance that the existing programs are achieving emissions reductions. Before enacting a new mandate, the legislature should demand that state agencies provide the data to demonstrate that taxpayer dollars are being spent responsibly.

“CARE believes in cost-effective climate change policies that achieve our reduction goals and ensure affordable and reliable energy for all California consumers and businesses. California should not pass SB 32 without resolving these major issues.”

Californians for Affordable & Reliable Energy is a non-partisan coalition advocating for a comprehensive state energy plan on fuels and electricity that prioritizes affordability, reliability and adequate supply. For more information please visit CAREaboutEnergy.org or connect with the coalition on twitter @CAREaboutEnergy.