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Coalition Urges Legislature to Stop Enacting New Policies, Fix Broken Climate Program

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Californians for Affordable and Reliable Energy (CARE), a coalition of business, community organizations and local elected officials, released the following statement regarding the vote in committee in support of SB 32:

Yesterday, SB 32, a bill designed to establish a new greenhouse gas target for 2030 passed out of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee and is making its way to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. “Moving this bill forward is a mistake that puts California consumers and businesses at risk. SB 32 avoids key decisions that need to be made to ensure we have an effective climate change policy after 2020,” said Dorothy Rothrock, co-chair of the CARE coalition and President of the California Manufacturers and Technology Association. “Rather than granting broad new authority to a state agency, the Legislature should be analyzing and addressing shortcomings in the current program that threaten consumers and the economy.”

For example, SB 32 provides no direction on the future use of cap and trade. It does not resolve the uncertainty related to the ability of the Legislature to appropriate billions of dollars in revenue for state programs. SB 32 does not address many other difficult but fundamental issues related to the state's climate change program.

SB 32 grants new regulatory authority to the Air Resources Board, a state agency governed by unelected officials, to determine how California will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The bill does not include robust legislative oversight and accountability for a process that would significantly impact California consumers and businesses.

“The CARE coalition believes in cost-effective climate change policies that ensure affordable and reliable energy for all California consumers and businesses”, continued Rothrock. “Serious questions have been raised by independent experts about the legality, effectiveness and fairness of the current programs. Now is the time to improve these programs so we can reach a post 2020 goal in a cost-effective manner to control energy costs and support economic growth. Californians deserve a more thoughtful approach by their elected representatives to ensure concerns related to SB 32 are thoroughly reviewed and addressed before adopting a 2030 target.”

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.