



Statement in Response to *Associated Press* Article on Green Jobs Promise

August 19, 2015, Sacramento, CA – Californians for Affordable and Reliable Energy (CARE) responded to the release of an *Associated Press* article that has raised significant concerns about whether or not funds from the passage of Proposition 39 are accomplishing what voters intended.

The AP article highlights that “half of the funds raised from Proposition 39 are dedicated to fund clean energy projects in schools, promising to generate more than 11,000 jobs each year.” Instead nearly three years after its passage, only 1,700 jobs have been created.

The office of Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de Leon, D-Los Angeles, initially estimated “Los Angeles Unified School District would save up to \$27 million a year on energy costs; projects proposed by the district so far would save only \$1.4 million.”

These promises and claims are eerily similar to those being touted in current climate change proposals (SB 32 and SB 350) swiftly making their way through the Legislature. Californians need an objective conversation about current climate policies that have already raised energy costs. Residents and businesses need more thorough analysis identifying what green jobs will be created, where those “green job” opportunities will be located and what training will be needed to fill those jobs.

Additionally, it is critical that policymakers fully understand the implications of AB 32 and existing policies on California’s residents before moving forward with additional mandates that could further impact residents and our economy.

Currently only 2% of the state’s 16.1 million jobs can be classified as green jobs, can we afford to jeopardize the other 98% of California’s jobs at the cost of policies we don’t yet fully understand?

“How are green jobs quantified and what are the wages? Do green policies create middle class jobs that California needs to grow its base and economy, and at what cost? Policymakers need the answers to these and many other questions before giving the California Air Resources Board more authority that will impact jobs,” stated Rob Lapsley, member of the CARE coalition and president of the California Business Roundtable.

"This recent article raises critical questions about what constitutes 'green jobs', where do they fit within the broader economy, and how are our state policies affecting job growth overall? We are eager to elevate this important conversation about California's economic future," stated Kish Rajan, member of the CARE coalition and president of the Southern California Leadership Council.

To read the entire AP article [click here](#).

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.