

March 1, 2010

Chairwoman Mary D. Nichols
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Ms. Nichols,

Last year, I introduced SB 295, which would have required the California Air Resource Board (CARB) to re-do its widely criticized economic analysis of the AB 32 Scoping Plan. As you are well aware, academic peer reviewers and the Legislative Analyst's Office raised significant concerns with the analysis. Robert Stavins, Director of the Harvard Environmental Economics Programs, went so far as to say that the "economic analysis is terribly deficient in critical ways and should not be used by the State government or the public for the purpose of assessing the likely costs of CARB's plans."

On May 20, 2009, in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee, CARB staff admitted that the economic analysis "needed additional work." In that same hearing, CARB argued that SB 295 was unnecessary because staff had already been directed to re-do the economic analysis with a deadline of December 31, 2009. Notably, CARB staff also raised concern that requiring a more in-depth analysis, like the one called for in SB 295, would delay the implementation of AB 32.

Ironically, it is now March 1, 2010 and the only thing that CARB has delayed is the revised economic analysis.

It is common knowledge that no business in California would be allowed to go forward with a construction project, for example, without a valid environmental impact review. It is inconceivable to me that CARB could implement a program with such wide-reaching impact without so much as a valid economic analysis.

Unfortunately, CARB continues to rush ahead to implement AB 32 with no care given to the economic turmoil that it is causing. CARB is meeting arbitrary environmental implementation deadlines at the expense of the economic needs of California families.

I respectfully request that you discontinue the implementation of AB 32 until a valid, peer-reviewed economic analysis has been completed. The livelihood of too many families is at stake.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



BOB DUTTON
Senator, 31st District