



AB 32 Implementation Group



Working Toward Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions
And Enhancing California's Competitiveness

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 16, 2007

Contact: Dave Fogarty (650) 814-0562
Gino DiCaro (916) 730-3443

COALITION URGES STATE TO UNLOCK INNOVATION AND JOB GROWTH NEEDED TO REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING

SACRAMENTO – A coalition of more than 140 business organizations urged the California Air Resources Board to allow market-based systems that promote energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emission reductions as a key strategy to implement AB 32 (The Global Warming Solutions Act).

“To unlock the promise of technological innovation and job growth envisioned in AB 32, California needs to open the door for creative companies to invest in projects that deliver energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions,” said Joe Lyon representing the AB 32 Implementation Group and a senior policy analyst for the California Manufacturers and Technology Association.

Mr. Lyon delivered his testimony to a January 16 workshop sponsored by the California Air Resources Board which is developing a strategic plan to meet AB 32's goal of reducing our state's greenhouse gas emissions by 25% in the year 2020.

“We support adoption of a Cap and trade program because such programs have been used to improve air quality while saving taxpayers billions of dollars.”

The Clean Air Act used a cap and trade system to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions from power plants. Cap and trade market systems are part of the Kyoto Protocol and Europe's greenhouse gas reduction strategies. Market based strategies were also used to phase out leaded gasoline and ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons.

The market mechanisms favored by the coalition include a program that includes all sources of greenhouse gas, recognizes that greenhouse gas reductions have climate benefits no matter where they take place, fits with other programs (such as the one in Europe), provides certainty, and minimizes the use of auctions.

“With a cap and trade design, the most cost effective emission reductions happen first and could happen much more quickly than the 2020 timetable set out in AB 32,” said Amisha Patel, vice president of the California Chamber of Commerce.

In addition, the coalition supported voluntary early action program policies proposed by CARB staff.

“There is a great deal of uncertainty for companies that are considering energy efficiency projects, but aren’t sure if they will be rewarded or penalized by moving quickly on these projects,” said Lyon. We are encouraging policies that provide creative companies to be credited for embarking on these projects now rather than waiting for future regulations to be adopted.”

More information about the AB 32 Implementation Group can be found at www.AB32IG.com.

The Implementation Group represents companies employing millions of California workers. Its members include the California Manufacturers & Technology Association, California Chamber of Commerce, California Taxpayers’ Ass’n, Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, Ass’n of Home Appliance Manufacturers, California Building Industry Ass’n, California Trucking Association, California Citrus Mutual, California Cotton Ginners and Growers Ass’n, California Grocers Ass’n, California Nevada Cement Ass’n, California Retailers Ass’n, California Small Business Alliance, Western States Petroleum Ass’n, and more than a dozen local chambers of commerce and farm bureaus.