



AB 32 Implementation Group



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

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BUSINESS GROUP SAYS, ADOPT VOLUNTARY EARLY ACTION PROGRAM

SACRAMENTO – Members of the AB 32 Implementation Group today testified before the California Air Resources Board (CARB) that to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions quickly, the best course of action would be to adopt a program recognizing voluntary efforts.

“We ask that CARB encourage companies to invest in energy efficiency projects now, and not hold back because of concerns that their early reductions won't count when regulations are finished in 2012,” said Dominic DiMare, vice president of the California Chamber of Commerce and co-chair of the AB 32 Implementation Group.

“Without this focused effort to provide guidance and certainty, California may not see any significant reductions until sometime after 2012.”

At today's workshop, the Air Resources Board considered additional “early actions” to those adopted this past June. One of the measures adopted then was a low carbon fuel standard.

“It is by far, potentially, the most significant reducer of greenhouse gas,” said DiMare. “Yet it comes with a significant price tag. Researchers for the University of California have estimated that the cost of the low carbon fuel standard is an increase of 21 cents per gallon in the price of gasoline.”

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In their testimony, members of the AB 32 Implementation Group recognized that reducing greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 25 percent by the year 2020 will not be easy.

But members, who testified of behalf of the coalition's more than 130 organizations and businesses, said an early voluntary program can jumpstart emission reductions so greenhouse gases can be cut sooner than statutorily required under AB 32.

Today's workshop was a public discussion to consider additional "early actions." Next the Board's staff will review the public comments and make a recommendation to the Board in October.

Members of the AB 32 Implementation Group include the California Chamber of Commerce, California Manufacturers & Technology Association, California Taxpayers' Ass'n, Small Business Action Committee, California Black Chamber of Commerce, California Building Industry Ass'n, California Business Properties Ass'n, California Business Roundtable, California Citrus Mutual, California Cotton Ginners and Growers Ass'n, California Forestry Ass'n, California Grocers Ass'n, California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, California League of Food Processors, California Metals Coalition, California Nevada Cement Ass'n, California Retailers Ass'n, California Poultry Federation, California Small Business Alliance, California Small Business Ass'n, Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors of California (CELSOC), Dairy Institute of California, Valley Industry and Commerce Ass'n (VICA), Western States Petroleum Ass'n, the Wine Institute and more than a dozen local chambers of commerce and farm bureaus.