



AB 32 Implementation Group



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

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New Opinion Poll Finds Voters Are Greatly Concerned About Unemployment, California's Budget and Schools

AB 32 Implementation Relevance Drops – Voters Want Leaders To Focus On Jobs

SACRAMENTO – A new poll released today shows that California voters are increasingly concerned about unemployment, the budget and education and reveals declining support for AB 32 (*The Global Warming Solutions Act*) implementation policies.

This poll conducted the first two weeks of December, by EMC Research, Inc., compares and contrasts findings from a similar EMC poll conducted in 2008. Using a random sample of registered voters in California, the poll found that voters want leaders to focus on creating more high-wage, quality jobs. While support for AB 32 has declined over the past 18 months, voters do favor a balanced approach to addressing global warming. With voters looking for a solution that creates a balanced strategy without reducing jobs, increasing energy costs or further harming the state's economy.

Shelly Sullivan, executive director of the AB 32 Implementation Group stated, "This is really about jobs and the economy. As voters begin to hear more about AB 32 implementation issues and they learn about the affiliated costs their concerns grow."

Sullivan noted that a valid economic analysis of AB 32 is not yet complete. "We don't know the impact of a proposal to impose a 100 percent auction of allowances in a cap-and-trade program to raise up to \$143 billion¹ between 2012 and 2020. Thousands of jobs will be at risk, California's large employers and public entities, such as the UC system and power and water facilities, will pay those costs and then pass them along to consumers. This is on top of other AB 32 programs that will raise consumer prices, such as an estimated 30%-60% increase in electric bills, \$3.7 billion in higher gasoline and diesel costs and a \$50,000 hike in the cost of a new home."

(more)

¹ At \$60 per ton

The poll raised a number of issues in order to take the pulse of voters and their priorities of issues affecting California's small businesses, workers and consumers. The highest-ranking concerns include the state budget/budget deficit; unemployment; schools/education; and, the economy.

One of the imminent AB 32 regulations is the implementation of a low carbon fuel standard² (LCFS). Upon learning that the price of food in the US and worldwide will increase and there will be an increase in fuel costs by nearly \$4 billion, a majority of voters are opposed to the LCFS. In fact, more than 75 percent of the voters believe consumers will be responsible for the costs to implement the LCFS regulation

Sullivan continued, "California voters play many roles, consumers, employers or employees, they are sophisticated and understand the need to make sure implementation of AB 32 does not lead to more job loss and unnecessary costs for consumers. We need to make sure the climate change policies California enacts are cost-effective, technologically feasible, are based on a sound economic analyses. And since we can't do it alone, the program should seamlessly link to other national and international programs."

The AB 32 Implementation Group is a statewide coalition of more than 185 business, employer and taxpayer organizations that aims to be a constructive voice helping the state reach its greenhouse gas emissions goals while also allowing the California economy to remain strong and competitive.

Members of the coalition include the California Chamber of Commerce, California Taxpayers Association, California League of Food Processors, California Forestry Association, California Grocers Association, California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, California Manufacturers and Technology Association, California Small Business Alliance, California Trucking Association, California Metals Coalition.

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² Requiring a 10 percent reduction in the carbon intensity of transportation fuels by 2020