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Assembly California Legislature



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March 27, 2020

Mary Nichols, Chair
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Chair Nichols:

I am writing to urge the California Air Resources Board (ARB), to suspend the development and implementation of all proposed regulations and regulatory concepts until after January 1, 2021. I also urge CARB to examine the need to delay existing milestones in adopted regulations as we grapple with the long-term recovery of the COVID-19 crisis.

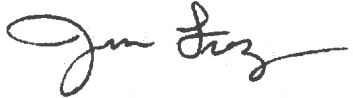
As you are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has required state and local agencies to implement radical and immediate changes to their operations. In addition, the economic impact of the pandemic will take years to fully recover. For example, ARB is in the final stages of implementing new and extensive requirements for At-Berth regulations. Proceeding with the regulation to expand the At-Berth regulation during this crisis does not make fiscal or operational sense given the impacts facing our goods movement industry and the difficulty to comply with the existing At-Berth regulations.

Further, ARB must suspend the development of future regulatory concepts, such as the Proposed Concepts for Commercial Harbor Craft. ARB is seeking comments from local entities at a time when these local entities are consumed with the emergency response to COVID-19 requirements and impacts. These local entities do not have the ability to provide thoughtful comments on ARB's proposals during these trying times.

The spread of COVID-19 is placing an incredible strain not only on our healthcare system, but also the public entities that provide essential services. The outbreak is not expected to subside for several months, making it impossible for the regulated community to focus on, respond to, or implement new regulations. The full scope of the impact of this crisis will not be known for months.

I therefore urge ARB to suspend its regulatory development activities, and I look forward to working with you as we assess the economic damage and how to proceed in maintaining our air quality goals in the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Frazier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

HONORABLE JIM FRAZIER, CHAIR
Assembly Committee on Transportation