

October 6, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

By email: Kristin.Stauffacher@gov.ca.gov

Re: Appointment of California Air Resources Board Chairperson

Dear Governor Newsom:

We write to you on behalf of our organizations to respectfully offer our perspectives as you prepare to appoint a new chair to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), following the departure of Chair Mary Nichols at the expiration of her term this year.

As organizations working on issues related to air pollution, climate change, and California's energy supply, the leadership of the CARB is of critical importance to our collective work. The CARB has broad jurisdiction and discretion in implementing our state's most important statutory and executive mandates on air pollution and climate. The vast power it wields directly impacts the health of environmental justice communities most suffering from air pollution and has far-reaching consequences on how our state will meet the climate crisis reckoning. Accordingly, your appointment of the next CARB chair is a critical opportunity to ensure that our state will properly advance its policies in a manner commensurate with our environmental health crisis and that aligns with your direction and vision for California's future.

We understand the importance of the Chair for the direction, operations, and overall spirit of the Air Resources Board. The Chair also sets the tone and style of the Board's many interactions with stakeholders, the public at-large, and to the nature of its proceedings. Fresh leadership can help ensure that all stakeholders' concerns are effectively addressed while the Board develops policies that best serve all of California. With this in mind, we have a strong interest in helping to make sure that the new Chair has the experience, background, and vision necessary to most effectively take on this role.

We feel it is imperative that the new Chair demonstrates a strong history of commitment to a transformative vision for California's climate, air, and energy policies, and an ambitious agenda for moving California forward on these issues.

In addition, we ask that you select a candidate who demonstrates the following qualifications:

- A strong background in environmental, environmental justice, and public health issues.
- A demonstrated record of genuine and respectful working relationships with environmental justice communities and public interest organizations working on California air quality and climate issues.
- A strong technical understanding of the Clean Air Act and other items under CARB jurisdiction.

- Strong experience and demonstrated leadership in public policy or law, including negotiating with multiple stakeholder groups.
- Commitment to prioritizing direct GHG emissions reductions and simultaneously alleviating environmental justice communities of co-pollutants.

Finally, we would oppose any nominee that comes from the oil, gas, or energy industry, because of the inherent conflict this would create between the agency and the regulated industry sectors.

It is our understanding that you are considering Hector De La Torre as a top candidate for this position. We respectfully do not believe that Mr. De La Torre satisfies these criteria, and we ask that you engage in a more extensive search of candidates.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

1. Barbara Sattler, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
2. Sylvia Chi, Asian Pacific Environmental Network
3. David Gassman, Bay Area-System Change not Climate Change
4. Gary Hughes, Biofuelwatch
5. Ian Ware, CA Youth Vs Big Oil
6. Neena Mohan, California Environmental Justice Alliance
7. Brian Nowicki, Center for Biological Diversity
8. RL Miller, Climate Hawks Vote
9. Ashley McClure, Climate Health Now
10. Felipe Aguirre, Comite Pro Uno
11. Bahram Fazeli, Communities for a Better Environment
12. Jennifer Krill, Earthworks
13. Alexandra Nagy, Food & Water Action
14. Miriam Eide, Fossil Free California
15. Ronald Martin, Fresnans against Fracking
16. Nicole Ghio, Friends of the Earth
17. Caroline Henderson, Greenpeace USA
18. Linda Hutchins-Knowles, Mothers Out Front
19. Pennie Opal Plant, Movement Rights
20. Crystal Huang, People Power Solar Cooperative
21. Martha Dina Arguello, Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles
22. David Braun, Rootskeeper
23. Pia Piscitelli, SanDiego350
24. Shoshana Wechsler, Sunflower Alliance
25. Riddhi Patel, Sunrise Kern