



February 15, 2019

Assemblymember Todd Gloria
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-007

RE: AB 423 (Gloria): SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Gloria:

Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) is pleased to offer our support and sponsorship for AB 423. EHC is a 39-year-old nonprofit organization that builds grassroots campaigns to confront the unjust consequences of air pollution, discriminatory land use, and climate change. Through leader development, organizing and advocacy, EHC improves the health of children, families, neighborhoods and the natural environment in the San Diego/Tijuana region.

San Diego has a serious air pollution problem. Air monitors in Chula Vista and El Cajon have indicated a human cancer risk of over 300 per million. This figure does not even include diesel particulate matter, the number one cancer causing pollutant in outdoor air. For children living in the San Diego communities of Barrio Logan and Logan Heights, the rate of asthma emergency room visits is up to three times higher than other areas in San Diego County.

These health hazards and acute health problems are **unacceptable**.

It is high time to hold those responsible for protecting our communities accountable. AB 423 will reform the governing board of the San Diego Air Pollution Control District (APCD) by rectifying a 25 year old exemption that has allowed San Diego to languish behind the other large regions in the state including Los Angeles (South Coast) the Bay Area, and the San Joaquin Valley. AB 423 ensures that San Diego will have a board with diverse representation from every city to address the most urgent air pollution needs.

Currently, the APCD Board is composed of only the five members of the County Board of Supervisors. This structure is fundamentally undemocratic in that it denies cities a voice and does not reflect the diversity of the county's residents, especially low-income communities most impacted by some of the worst air pollution in California. If passed into law, AB 423 will increase the APCD Board membership to 11 individuals representing each city in the region and members of the public.

EHC is proud to sponsor AB 423 with you to reform the San Diego APCD and bring our region

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EMPODERANDO A LA GENTE. ORGANIZANDO A LAS COMUNIDADES. LOGRANDO LA JUSTICIA.

into modern times. We need a massive shift in the way we fight air pollution in San Diego. We can do so much more and we believe that reforming the APCD board will provide the vision and resources to the hard working staff to make that shift.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Takvorian". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Diane Takvorian
Executive Director