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California State Legislature

SENATOR
HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
NINETEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



CHAIR
SENATE JUDICIARY
JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
SELECT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN,
WORK AND FAMILIES
COMMITTEES
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1
ON EDUCATION
LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER
PUBLIC SAFETY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
CALIFORNIA'S WINE INDUSTRY

September 7, 2018

Gabriel Garcia
Field Office Manager
Bakersfield Bureau of Land Management
3801 Pegasus Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93308

Dear Mr. Garcia:

We are writing to express our serious concern with the recent announcement of the Bureau of Land Management's intent to open nearly 273,000 acres of federal land and mineral estate across San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties to fracking and oil drilling. This action will significantly impair the health of California communities, and impact the integrity of sensitive California ecosystems. We know that increased oil production results in the diminishing of local air quality, and exposes local communities to toxic air pollutants. Several of the communities that would be directly affected by this action—including some of our districts—already deal with some of the worst air quality in the nation.

Several of the areas proposed for new leasing are not only in or adjacent to state-recognized environmental justice communities—those that already suffer from substantial environmental pollution—several other proposed areas are adjacent to or include communities that are significantly populated and have not previously been subject to nearby or in-community oil production. These include areas near urban centers, coastal areas heavily visited by tourists, neighborhoods, and community facilities, including primary schools. This plan trammels the intention of these communities to protect residents from adverse environmental and health impacts. As such, this plan is overly broad, is insensitive to local community needs, and health considerations dangerously imperils entirely new population centers to significant adverse health consequences.

This broad, overly aggressive and burdensome proposal is greatly worrisome, as is the process by which it has been introduced and communicated to the public. The public process is wholly inadequate for the scale and significance of new leasing being proposed. Several communities

and neighborhoods were unaware of the Bureau's plan to open up leasing near or in their areas, and were only made aware by other communities or civic organization, not directly by any federal authority. It is highly inappropriate for an agency not to make a targeted effort when proposing a plan of this magnitude. Furthermore, the time allowed to communities to fully and properly respond to the proposal, especially considering the late notice to many, is woefully insufficient. The Bureau should extend public comment by several weeks, and should also make all efforts to inform all newly affected communities of how the proposal impacts them.

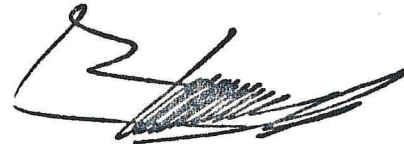
This proposed plan is in direct contravention of California's goals and policies to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and protect public health. The state continues to enact policies limiting new oil and gas production, both onshore and offshore, in an effort to ensure the state meets emissions reduction targets and renewable energy production goals. This proposed plan would contravene active state policies that remain popular among California voters, risking the ability of the state to meet its climate goals and duty to protect public health.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

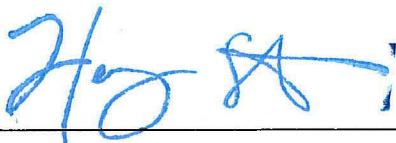
Sincerely,



HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
State Senator, 19th District



BILL MONNING
State Senator, 17th District



HENRY STERN
State Senator, 27th District



MONIQUE LIMÓN
Assemblymember, 37th District