

4 June 2013

Hon. Ellen M. Corbett  
Senate Majority Leader  
State Capitol, Room 313  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900  
FAX: (916) 327-2433



Re: **AB 26—OPPOSE**

Dear Majority Leader Corbett,

Communities for a Better Environment stands in **OPPOSITION** to AB 26 (Bonilla). Our independent analysis finds that this proposed law threatens to:

- Give super-rich oil companies billions of dollars in public money to keep their refineries running;
- Undercut climate protection through this massive new subsidy of a polluting fossil industry that disadvantages clean energy alternatives;
- Hurt workers' rights by outsourcing that would replace existing refinery workers who would lose their jobs; and
- Thereby undermine workers' ability to stand up to corporate risk-taking, making refineries even less safe for workers and nearby communities.

The bill's intent to declare oil refinery maintenance as "public works" and subsidize it with money from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund that is supposed to support clean energy in communities that are hardest hit by industrial pollution is an outrageous idea, especially given the billions in profits Big Oil makes each quarter.

Compounding these problems, AB 26 would hurt workers' rights based on a false assumption that blames workers for pollution incidents that are really caused by the oil companies when they cut corners on safety. For example, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board has shown that it was Chevron management decisions, and not worker error or lack of training, that caused the Richmond refinery explosion and fire that nearly killed 19 workers and sent 15,000 people to hospitals last August.

We raised these problems with AB 26 in the Assembly. Despite assurances, the author's amendments have not resolved them.

Please vote **NO** on this catastrophically bad bill.

Sincerely,

Bill Gallegos  
Executive Director

Copy: Members of the California Senate

1904 Franklin Street, Suite 600 • Oakland, CA 94612 • T (510) 302-0430 • F (510) 302-0437

*In Southern California: 6325 Pacific Blvd., Suite 300 • Huntington Park, CA 90255 • (323) 826-9771*