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Clean Air Groups to Oil Industry: “Stop SCARE-ing California” About AB 32, Clean Energy

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California’s leading public health, consumer, social justice and environmental advocates exposed yet another Astroturf campaign that is attempting to kill the state’s clean air, energy and fuel standards. The new oil industry front group, “Californians for Affordable and Reliable Energy,” or CARE, was unveiled earlier this week by California’s biggest-spending lobbyist, Western States Petroleum Association, and other opponents of the state’s suite of clean energy laws, including AB 32.

To get the word out about just who’s behind CARE and Big Oil’s other front groups, the clean air advocates who banded together to form Stop Fooling CA launched a special page at SCAREAboutEnergy.org, a parody of CARE’s own site.

“Californians are fed up with Big Oil spending millions of dollars to kill our clean air standards under a veil of a seemingly Mom-and-Pop organization,” said Bill Gallegos, executive director of Communities for a Better Environment. “They want to continue business-as-usual, which means further polluting the air, especially of low income communities of color. We don’t need more pollution from Big Oil. What California and our communities really need is a comprehensive build out of a clean energy transport and energy system. AB 32 can help us achieve that goal. We want anyone who is thinking about associating with this oil company front group to know who’s behind it and what they’re really up to.”

“The oil industry’s efforts to overturn California’s popular clean air standards have been focused on manipulating data and spreading false information,” said Bill Magavern, policy director for Coalition for Clean Air. “They don’t get that people are smart enough to know when an oil company says ‘clean and reliable energy’, what they really mean is, “keep the status quo so we can destroy competition from clean energy producers and continue to rake in billions of dollars.”

Clean air advocates joined together earlier this year to endorse the introduction of “StopFoolingCA,” (<http://www.stopfoolingca.org/>), the online and social media public education and awareness campaign that reveals how oil companies continue to fight California’s wildly popular and successful clean energy and fuel standards while pocketing huge profits.

“It’s just plain irresponsible that oil companies are getting rich while vulnerable populations struggle with skyrocketing medical costs to treat pollution-related illness,” said Martha Dina

Arguello, executive director of Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles. “It’s time for the oil industry to clean up its act, particularly in light of the **recent poll** that showed a record-high majority of Californians want the state to take immediate action to reduce air pollution.”