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Environmental Justice Priority Bill Dies in CA State Senate

*Senate Silences Voices of Frontline Communities
in Southern California Air Quality Policy*

(HUNTINGTON PARK, CA) – [Communities for a Better Environment \(CBE\)](#) released the following statement in response to the Senate’s failure to pass [Senate Bill 342](#), which would have added two environmental justice seats to the board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD). The bill, championed by Senator Lena Gonzalez, stipulated that the additional board seats would have been chosen by state lawmakers with candidates who reside in and work directly with communities most burdened by pollution.

Statement from Bahram Fazeli, Director of Research and Policy, CBE:

“The Senate failed to stand up to corporate polluters today, just as the Southern California regional air district often fails to protect environmental justice communities. This outcome shows why this important reform is needed. SB 342 was a chance to bring delayed justice for communities and to empower frontline neighborhoods on health protective air quality policies. We will continue fighting for this policy and for a reformed AQMD, a process that we have been tirelessly working on for the past 30 years. The Senate needs to show courage and leadership to hold polluters accountable and support vulnerable communities in their efforts.”

*Founded in 1978, **Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)** is one of the preeminent environmental justice organizations in the nation. The mission of CBE is to build people’s power in California’s communities of color and low-income communities to achieve environmental health and justice by preventing and reducing pollution and building green, healthy and sustainable communities and environments.*

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