

April 10, 2017

The Honorable Cristina Garcia  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 655

Dear Assemblymember Garcia:

On behalf of the members of the East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice (EYCEJ) and the undersigned organizations, I am writing to express our strong opposition to AB 655 (O'Donnell): California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program. Collectively, we represent hundreds of residents from East Los Angeles, Commerce, Southeast Los Angeles, Wilmington, and Long Beach. With two of the three incinerators in our entire State being in our neighborhoods (Long Beach and Commerce), we have experienced firsthand the health and safety impacts of living in the shadows of these "waste-to-energy" facilities. Incinerators are toxic sources of pollution which not only are non-renewable- emitting more carbon dioxide per unit of energy than a coal-fired power plant- but also come with harmful co-pollutants which add additional pollution burden to our already overburdened communities.

We ask that low-income communities of color stop being sacrifice zones, especially in the name of energy generation. Our communities are burdened by pollution from freeways, rail yards, refineries, ports, and industrial manufacturing facilities. We long for the day where our health and quality of life is uplifted by our representatives not just in words, but with action. Our residents deserve clean air, zero-emissions, and healthy communities, and are actively working to create solutions to the systemic problems we face. We need those who represent us on the political stage to stand up and fight with us.

With many efforts to combat waste and increase zero-waste policies, waste diversion, recycling, and upcycling, as well as increasing the State's renewable clean energy portfolio, a bill that would allow for trash burning to be classified as a renewable resource and be eligible for RPS credit is a step in the wrong direction. Similar measures have been attempted over the last several years and failed. Waste incineration is not a cost-effective nor environmentally friendly way to produce energy or dispose of waste. We hope to continue California's tradition of being an environmental leader in the nation.

We are looking forward to your partnership and leadership on this issue. We appreciate your continued support of the environment and environmental justice.

Sincerely,

Taylor Thomas, Research & Policy Analyst  
EYCEJ

Drew Wood, Executive Director  
California Kids IAQ

Pastor Alfred Carrillo  
Apostolic Faith Center

Magali Sanchez-Hall, Executive Director  
EMERGE

Joe R. Gatlin, Vice President  
NAACP - Wilmington Branch

Dr. John G Miller, President  
San Pedro & Peninsula Homeowners Coalition

Martha Dina Arguello, Executive Director  
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles

Gisele Fong, Executive Director  
EndOil/ Communities for Clean Ports

Ahmina Maxey, U.S. & Canada Campaigns Coordinator  
Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives

Jesse Marquez, Executive Director  
Coalition for a Safe Environment

Ricardo Pulido, Executive Director  
Community Dreams

Chaplin Anthony Quezada  
American Veterans (AMVETS)

Anabell Romero Chavez, Board Member  
Wilmington Improvement Network

Modesta Pulido, Chairperson  
St. Philomena Social Justice Ministry

Jane Williams, Executive Director  
California Communities Against Toxics

Stella Ursua, President  
Green Education Inc.

Sylvia Betancourt, Project Manager  
Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma