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May 31, 2022

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula  
California State Assembly Member  
State Capitol, Room 5155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2550 State Air Resources Board: Ambient Air Quality Standards: Nonattainment Districts – Oppose

Dear Assemblymember Arambula:

The San Joaquin Valley faces one of the most significant air quality challenges in the country due to its unique topography, climate, geography, and the presence of two major transportation corridors, creating a significant public health challenge for Valley residents. The District and CARB have a long successful history of working together to develop and implement plans to bring the San Joaquin Valley into compliance with state and federal air quality standards and improve public health. Unfortunately, AB 2550 will add additional cost, take away local control, and will not provide any additional air quality benefit. Limited state resources would be better spent on reducing mobile source emissions which are the largest contributor to the Valley's air quality challenge.

Air districts have the expertise and primary authority to regulate stationary sources of emissions, with CARB having regulatory authority over mobile sources (which produce 85% of the Valley's NOx emissions). Current law requires air quality plans to be developed jointly between CARB and local air districts with extensive public participation throughout the process. CARB currently provides input into air district's regulatory activities, and has the authority to step in and take over an air district's activities if the District fails to fulfill its obligations. CARB has never had the need to exercise this authority.

We support efforts to improve air quality and public health in the San Joaquin Valley. Unfortunately, AB 2550 will add cost and bureaucracy to the process, take away local control with no appreciable benefit to air quality. Instead of adding cost to process of developing air quality plans, the state would be better served by directing resources to fully funding its commitments to air quality incentives that will accelerate the introduction of cleaner equipment and air quality improvement.

Sincerely,

Tom Wheeler  
Chair