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736 F Street
Arcata CA 95521

July 8, 2025

The Honorable Monique Limon
1021 O Street, Room 7610
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jacqui Irwin
1021 O Street, Room 6220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support Cap & Trade Reauthorization By Prioritizing Investments in Climate Safe Infrastructure

Dear Senator Limon and Assemblymember Irwin,

On behalf of the City of Arcata, we write to you today to encourage legislators to prioritize climate safe infrastructure improvements as you reauthorize and improve the Cap-and-Trade program.

We support investments in physical and natural infrastructure proven to reduce the greatest amount of greenhouse gas emissions, make California safer and more resilient to the impacts of climate change, while supporting good paying middle class jobs. We also encourage you to keep affordability in mind and ensure that reauthorization does not increase taxes or fees that are ultimately paid by consumers in the form of higher cost of living.

Climate change and extreme weather are here already. We need an improved Cap-and-Trade program that prioritizes effectiveness and accountability while preserving affordability.

While there are many programs that the current program funds that are deserving of consideration, we believe that continuous investments in the following priorities will deliver the most benefits to California achieving its greenhouse gas reduction goals while also delivering tangible benefits to Californians that improve their day-to-day lives.

State and Regional Clean Transit Infrastructure

- Fund capital projects of regional significance with funds to be used to support the buildout of an integrated rail network
- Invest in local and regional transit agencies to support the recovery, stabilization, and growth of transit and rail service statewide, including capital expansions, ZEV transition, and operations and maintenance

Clean Local Transportation Infrastructure

- Prioritize new funding for local governments to safely implement green transportation infrastructure, including:
 - Hydrogen and EV charging infrastructure

- Support for local Active Transportation Infrastructure
- Funding for local government and transit clean fleet compliance
- Develop network of regional VMT mitigation banks to offset local transportation project costs

State Wildfire Resilience Infrastructure

- Dedicate funding for high wildfire risk counties, including:
 - Firefighting capital infrastructure, fire engine procurement and training for local fire agencies, and mobile equipment management
 - Statewide wildfire fuel mitigation projects, including landscape-scale reforestation, fuels reduction, pest management, prescribed fire, and forest biomass utilization
 - Public safety emergency water supply infrastructure
 - Wood Products and Bioenergy grants and workforce development, including using GGRF funds to cover above-market cost of producing bioenergy
 - Expansion of local fire evacuation routes including community fire planning and preparedness and wildfire response and readiness

Local Land Use Infrastructure to Support High Density and Infill Development

- Invest in local, rural and regional governments to support projects consistent with a sustainable communities strategy, including:
 - Funding for local infrastructure around Transit Oriented Development
 - Conversion of underutilized urban office and commercial into housing
 - Continued funding for state and regional affordable housing, sustainable communities programs and transformative climate communities efforts and programs like Local and Regional Early Action Planning Grants (LEAP & REAP)

Climate Adaptation for Sea Level Rise Infrastructure

- Fund annually projects related to climate adaptation, including:
 - Levee improvements and catastrophic flooding prevention
 - Relocate or replace existing transportation, coastal airports, and other critical infrastructure threatened by sea level rise
 - Municipal waste and recycling infrastructure and local assistance for organic waste collection and processing including facility siting and permitting

The City of Arcata supports the reauthorization of the Cap-and-Trade program because it aligns with our commitment to building climate-resilient infrastructure, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and fostering sustainable, equitable growth. We believe that prioritizing investments in climate-safe infrastructure will not only help mitigate the impacts of climate change but also create good-paying jobs, support local economies, and ensure that California remains a leader in climate action. By investing in projects that improve public safety, strengthen our communities, and promote affordability, we can ensure a more sustainable and resilient future for all.

Senator Limon and Assemblymember Irwin
Letter of Support

With the dual crisis of affordability and climate change knocking at our door, the City of Arcata respectfully asks that you prioritize the above investments as you reauthorize the Cap & Trade Program.

Sincerely,



Alexandra Stillman
Mayor
City of Arcata

cc Mike McGuire, State Senator, District 2,
Jared Huffman, Congressman, District 2,
Chris Rogers, State Assemblymember, District 2,
Sara Sanders, Regional Public Affairs Manager, sanders@calcities.org
League of California Cities, cityletters@calcities.org

