March 11, 2025

Senate Environmental Quality Committee

1021 O Street, Room 3230

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act (SB 684, Menjivar) – SUPPORT**

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee – Chair Blakespear and Senators Dahle, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar, Pérez, and Reyes:

The undersigned organizations join the bill sponsors (Center for Biological Diversity, Campaign for a Safe and Healthy California, and California Environmental Voters) in strong support of [SB 684](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB684), the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act. Californians have paid enough. Now more than ever, we are feeling the utter devastation of the climate crisis. Earlier this year, flames engulfed entire neighborhoods in Los Angeles, forcing tens of thousands of people to evacuate, killing at least 29 people, and leaving harrowing destruction. This climate disaster alone is estimated to cost as high as [$275 billion](https://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/accuweather-estimates-more-than-250-billion-in-damages-and-economic-loss-from-la-wildfires/1733821#:~:text=As%20fires%20continue%20to%20rage,%24250%20billion%20and%20%24275%20billion.). Polluters—not California’s working families—should be on the hook to pay to help remedy the harm their products caused. **The Climate Superfund Act is an urgent and necessary solution to invest in California’s future, protect communities, build more resilient neighborhoods, and support essential workers at the center of responding to climate disasters.**

The Climate Superfund Act will ease the burden California taxpayers and families face while struggling to rebuild from climate disasters. It requires the world’s biggest fossil fuel polluters to use their global profits to pay for damage their products caused the state. These polluters are overwhelmingly responsible for climate devastation; for decades they knew their products and actions posed catastrophic risks to humanity, yet they continued to spread disinformation and block critical climate action, while raking in record profits.

This bill requires the state to quantify climate damage costs to California, local and tribal governments, and residents. The state would then assess compensatory fees proportional to a polluter’s past emissions. Polluters identified as responsible parties would also be assessed to cover administration costs (which are capped at 10%).) The bill sets a high threshold; it only applies to those entities that emitted more than one billion metric tons of greenhouse gases from 1990 through 2024.

These fees would fund state investments to recover from, adapt to, and mitigate climate damage. Such investments could include disaster recovery and response; clean energy and transportation infrastructure; community and school resilience; energy efficiency and building decarbonization to reduce family utility costs; and support for essential workers and first responders. The aim of the bill is to dedicate at least 40% of the funds to benefit frontline, environmental justice communities hit hardest by fossil fuel pollution. **This legislation could raise hundreds of billions of dollars to protect Californians and invest in affordable, resilient, and sustainable communities.**

Our groups collectively represent hundreds of thousands of Californians who are harmed by and at risk of further climate disasters. As horrific as they were, the Los Angeles fires were just the latest climate catastrophe Californians have endured. From fires to floods, rising sea levels, atmospheric rivers, extreme heat, and prolonged drought, fossil-fueled climate disruption is wreaking havoc across California, costing Californians billions.

**Our current infrastructure is not suited for the climate fossil fuels have created.** To safeguard Californians, infrastructure upgrades are desperately needed, including for home hardening and structural protections against wildfires, flood protection in vulnerable neighborhoods and farmlands, and extreme heat protections for workers, families and schoolchildren.

**Climate-related health costs are also rising.** Smoke exposure worsens asthma, extreme heat can cause heat stroke and exhaustion, and shifting climate conditions can drive the spread of infectious disease. Environmental justice communities have borne the brunt of these costs and the harms of fossil fuel pollution for decades leading to increased incidences of respiratory diseases and cancers, and lower life expectancies.

**Who is going to pay for this?** Californians can't afford to shoulder escalating insurance rates, housing and utility costs, and health expenses driven skyward by the climate crisis. State and local budgets are already stretched to the brink; local and tribal governments can’t afford to make the necessary investments to fortify their communities and residents against ever-increasing climate risks. It’s time to make polluters pay for the damage they knew their products would cost Californians.

This bill is separate and distinct from important climate accountability lawsuits brought to hold polluters accountable for lying about climate change and violating the law.

We strongly support the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act (SB 684) and urge you to pass this common-sense and necessary legislation to protect Californians and to invest in a safer, cleaner, more efficient, cost-effective, sustainable, and just future.

Sincerely,

Ali Mariko Dressel

Ali Mariko Dressel

Climate Justice Policy Coordinator, Climate Action Campaign

March 11, 2025

Assembly Natural Resources Committee

1020 N Street, Room 164

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act (AB 1243, Addis) – SUPPORT**

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee – Chair Bryan and Vice Chair Alanis, and Assemblymembers Davies, Connolly, Flora, Garcia, Haney, Hoover, Kalra, Muratsuchi, Pellerin, Schultz, Wicks and Zbur:

The undersigned organizations join the bill sponsors (Center for Biological Diversity, Campaign for a Safe and Healthy California, and California Environmental Voters) in strong support of [AB 1243](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1243), the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act. Californians have paid enough. Now more than ever, we are feeling the utter devastation of the climate crisis. Earlier this year, flames engulfed entire neighborhoods in Los Angeles, forcing tens of thousands of people to evacuate, killing at least 29 people, and leaving harrowing destruction. This climate disaster alone is estimated to cost as high as [$275 billion](https://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/accuweather-estimates-more-than-250-billion-in-damages-and-economic-loss-from-la-wildfires/1733821#:~:text=As%20fires%20continue%20to%20rage,%24250%20billion%20and%20%24275%20billion.). Polluters—not California’s working families—should be on the hook to pay to help remedy the harm their products caused. **The Climate Superfund Act is an urgent and necessary solution to invest in California’s future, protect communities, build more resilient neighborhoods, and support essential workers at the center of responding to climate disasters.**

The Climate Superfund Act will ease the burden California taxpayers and families face while struggling to rebuild from climate disasters. It requires the world’s biggest fossil fuel polluters to use their global profits to pay for damage their products caused the state. These polluters are overwhelmingly responsible for climate devastation; for decades they knew their products and actions posed catastrophic risks to humanity, yet they continued to spread disinformation and block critical climate action, while raking in record profits.

This bill requires the state to quantify climate damage costs to California, local and tribal governments, and residents. The state would then assess compensatory fees proportional to a polluter’s past emissions. Polluters identified as responsible parties would also be assessed to cover administration costs (which are capped at 10%).) The bill sets a high threshold; it only applies to those entities that emitted more than one billion metric tons of greenhouse gases from 1990 through 2024.

These fees would fund state investments to recover from, adapt to, and mitigate climate damage. Such investments could include disaster recovery and response; clean energy and transportation infrastructure; community and school resilience; energy efficiency and building decarbonization to reduce family utility costs; and support for essential workers and first responders. The aim of the bill is to dedicate at least 40% of the funds to benefit frontline, environmental justice communities hit hardest by fossil fuel pollution. **This legislation could raise hundreds of billions of dollars to protect Californians and invest in affordable, resilient, and sustainable communities.**

Our groups collectively represent hundreds of thousands of Californians who are harmed by and at risk of further climate disasters. As horrific as they were, the Los Angeles fires were just the latest climate catastrophe Californians have endured. From fires to floods, rising sea levels, atmospheric rivers, extreme heat, and prolonged drought, fossil-fueled climate disruption is wreaking havoc across California, costing Californians billions.

**Our current infrastructure is not suited for the climate fossil fuels have created.** To safeguard Californians, infrastructure upgrades are desperately needed, including for home hardening and structural protections against wildfires, flood protection in vulnerable neighborhoods and farmlands, and extreme heat protections for workers, families and schoolchildren.

**Climate-related health costs are also rising.** Smoke exposure worsens asthma, extreme heat can cause heat stroke and exhaustion, and shifting climate conditions can drive the spread of infectious disease. Environmental justice communities have borne the brunt of these costs and the harms of fossil fuel pollution for decades leading to increased incidences of respiratory diseases and cancers, and lower life expectancies.

**Who is going to pay for this?** Californians can't afford to shoulder escalating insurance rates, housing and utility costs, and health expenses driven skyward by the climate crisis. State and local budgets are already stretched to the brink; local and tribal governments can’t afford to make the necessary investments to fortify their communities and residents against ever-increasing climate risks. It’s time to make polluters pay for the damage they knew their products would cost Californians.

This bill is separate and distinct from important climate accountability lawsuits brought to hold polluters accountable for lying about climate change and violating the law.

We strongly support the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act (AB 1243) and urge you to pass this common-sense and necessary legislation to protect Californians and to invest in a safer, cleaner, more efficient, cost-effective, sustainable, and just future.

Sincerely,

Ali Mariko Dressel

Ali Mariko Dressel

Climate Justice Policy Coordinator, Climate Action Campaign