



July 19, 2022

The Honorable Anthony Portantino, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Assembly Bill 1897 (Wicks) in re: Refinery Penalties

Dear Chair Portantino and Members of the Committee:

The American Lung Association writes in support of Assembly Bill 1897 (AB 1897, Wicks), which seeks to update the penalty ceiling associated with refinery violations of state or local air quality rules. This measure would strengthen the deterrent effect of penalties designed to prevent emission violations that threaten health.

AB 1897 would seek to update the maximum threshold for penalties on refineries above levels in place today to establish a more appropriate deterrent effect. The ceiling for refinery violations of state or local air quality rules would be increased from a maximum of \$10,000 per incident today to up to \$30,000 for an initial incident and up to \$100,000 per additional incident that might occur within the following year. By increasing the potential initial and subsequent penalties, this legislation would help to address a deficiency in existing policy that fails to adequately deter violations of air pollution policy.

The American Lung Association supports advancing AB 1897 to ensure that penalty ceilings are increased to promote greater compliance with air pollution control policies. We look forward to the ongoing discussions on this important measure, and urge your aye vote. Please contact me with any questions at William.Barrett@Lung.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Barrett".

Will Barrett
National Senior Director, Clean Air Advocacy