



September 17, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support AB 1465 (Wicks) – Non-Vehicular Penalties

Dear Governor Newsom:

The American Lung Association write to request that you sign Assembly Bill 1465 (Wicks). AB 1465 provides for increased penalties for excess emissions released by pollution sources in California as an important tool to correct the conditions leading to such releases.

The American Lung Association's "[State of the Air](#)" 2024 report illustrates that Californians face the most difficult air pollution burdens in the nation. Children, seniors, those with heart and lung disease and others are more vulnerable to these consequences. Further, lower-income people and people of color often bear an added, disproportionate burden due to nearby sources of harmful emissions. AB 1465 would impose higher penalties for facilities that release air contaminants that cause harm in communities affected by the release.

Specifically, AB 1465 seeks to increase the deterrent effect of fines for the release of excess air pollutants that cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance or endanger the comfort, repose, health or safety to any considerable number of persons, or to the public, or that cause, or have a tendency to cause, injury or damage to a business or property. By tripling the civil penalties imposed, AB 1465 would provide greater incentive to act appropriately and preventatively to avoid harmful releases of air contaminants into the communities nearest the pollution sources. AB 1465 would increase public health, air quality and environmental justice protections by strengthening the deterrent effect of civil penalties.

We urge you to sign AB 1465 to better protect community health from harmful air pollution. 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