

April 30, 2015

The Honorable Henry T. Perea  
Assembly Member 31<sup>st</sup> District  
State Capitol, Room 4112  
Sacramento, CA, 95814

**Re: Support for AB 156 (Perea) GHG Financial Assistance Act**

Dear Assembly Member Perea:

The Fresno Council of Governments would like to express strong support for Assembly Bill 156 (Perea), which would increase access for disadvantaged communities (DAC) to cap-and-trade revenues. The bill seeks to assist communities that need financial assistance to navigate through the pre-planning and application processes.

AB 156 will increase access for disadvantaged communities (DACs) that are eligible to receive cap-and-trade revenues as directed by Senate Bill 535, which requires that 25 percent of the proceeds from the state's cap-and-trade auctions be invested in projects that benefit disadvantaged communities, including 10 percent for projects located within these areas. AB 156 has the potential to make DACs more competitive by providing technical assistance and support through the extensive and overwhelming application and research process that is needed to apply and receive these funds.

CalEnviroScreen 2.0 identifies the California communities most burdened by pollution from multiple sources and most vulnerable to its effects. The tool identifies the San Joaquin Valley as one of the severely disadvantaged regions in the state by considering several types of pollution and environmental factors, population characteristics and socioeconomic factors. Pollution levels in the San Joaquin Valley continue to be unsustainable and many of the state's regions impacted by high levels of pollution also have high rates of unemployment. This bill would bridge the gap between those who need AB 32 funding and those who have difficulty applying for available funds.

By providing funding for technical assistance for DACs, eligible entities would be able to work in collaboration with local governments to enhance their ability to apply competitively for AB 32 funding. Without technical assistance, many DACs in California will not have the financial and staffing resources to compete well with others for funding opportunities. This bill would ensure DACs are more competitive when applying for the State's cap-and-trade funding.

*We strongly support AB 156 (Perea) which would provide disadvantaged communities financial assistance to improve their quality of life.*

Sincerely,

Amarpreet Dhaliwal, Chair  
Mayor, City of San Joaquin

City of Clovis  
City of Coalinga  
City of Firebaugh  
City of Fowler  
City of Fresno  
City of Huron  
City of Kerman  
City of Kingsburg  
City of Mendota  
City of Orange Cove  
City of Parlier  
City of Reedley  
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