



April 16, 2025

Senator Catherine Blakespear
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 441 (Hurtado), Air Resources Board Membership and Regulations -- Oppose

Dear Senator Blakespear:

Coalition for Clean Air opposes SB 441 because it would unnecessarily and impractically interfere with the work of the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

California has by far the worst air pollution in the country, so the Legislature should be facilitating air quality safeguards rather than obstructing them. CARB has accomplished substantial reductions in the state's air pollution, but still has much more to do in order to attain the health-based standards required by state and federal law. The Trump Administration is now rolling back vital protections and intentionally allowing big polluters to flout the Clean Air Act, so it is a particularly dangerous time to be undermining state standards.

We do not always agree with CARB, but our decades of experience practicing before the Board allow us to attest that it makes decisions in public with processes that allow many opportunities for public participation. Its regulatory process already includes lengthy analyses; adding an additional review by the Legislative Analyst, as SB 441 would do, would be redundant and impractical. Prohibiting the Board from making amendments, revisions or alterations to draft amendments would reduce Board Members to the status of potted plants and unwisely transfer authority from the Board to its staff. Allowing the Legislature to remove Board Members would upset the separation of powers between the legislative and executive branches and seems largely punitive in nature, since it is proposed for only this one Board and not for any other agency. For these reasons, we urge you to hold SB 441 in committee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Magavern". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Magavern
Policy Director

Cc: Senator Melissa Hurtado