



August 25, 2024
Sent via email

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

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker of the Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mike McGuire
Senate Pro Tem-Designate
1021 O Street, Suite 8610
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Juan Carillo
Assembly Local Government Committee
1020 N Street, Room 157
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable María Elena Durazo
Senate Local Government Committee
State Capitol, Room 407
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Oppose in Concept: Warehouse Reform

Dear Governor Newsom, Speaker Rivas, Pro Tem McGuire, Chair Carillo and Chair Durazo:

We are writing in respectful opposition to an impending bill on warehouse reform on behalf of the 16 undersigned community-based organizations and allies. While we have not seen actual bill language as of yet, we are familiar with some of the language. The bill is anticipated to set dangerously low standards for warehouse siting and operations that would fail to protect the people who will be the unenviable neighbors of new and expanding facilities. The lack of public process and stakeholder engagement that preceded bill introduction is evident in the bill's inadequate approach to planning for and with communities throughout California.

Warehouse development comes with a range of pollution and risks for kids, seniors, and adults living, playing, working, and praying in the shadows of those warehouses, including air pollution from trucks, heat island effects, wear and tear on roads, and sound and light nuisances.ⁱ Our own state officials at the California Air Resources Board have cited that warehouse property lines should be at least 1,000 feet from sensitive receptors at a minimum to avoid the worst impacts from air pollution.ⁱⁱ

However, the bill is anticipated to enshrine setback distances of as few as 300 feet from dock doors to sensitive receptors into state law. Setting setbacks of 300 or 500 feet from dock doors to sensitive receptor property lines would not only fail to protect the health of the communities that we work with, but it would also make our work on the ground much more difficult, as many of the local jurisdictions that we engage with would likely refuse to adopt a regulation stronger than the state standards.

We additionally have a deep concern over the process and structure thus far, which effectively excluded environmental justice voices from informing the policy. Our organizations work on issues of warehousing everyday; we have helped pass local and regional policies on warehousing, gathered data and created reports, supported electrification solutions and most importantly we directly work in partnership with communities that are facing the physical, mental, social and economic impacts of warehousing. We deserve more time and opportunities to engage in legislation that is so central to our work.

For these reasons, we cannot support the impending bill on warehouse reform. We remain committed to working collaboratively with your leadership on statewide solutions that address the environmental and public health harms of warehousing.

Sincerely,

Asha Sharma
State Policy Manager
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Katie Valenzuela
Senior Policy Advocate
Central Valley Air Quality Coalition

Sandra Celedon
President and Chief Executive Officer
Fresno Building Healthy Communities

Laura Moreno
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Friends of Calwa

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Co-Director
East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice

Sheheryar Kaoosji
Executive Director
Warehouse Worker Resource Center

Tom Dolan
Executive Director
Inland Congregations United for Change

Sarah Sharpe
Deputy Executive Director
Central California Asthma Collective

Franco Pacheco
Founder
Inland Valley Alliance for Environmental Justice

Karla Cervantes
Founder
Mead Valley Coalition for Clean Air

Jillian Menez
Founder
Perris Neighbors in Action

Dr. Francesca Hopkins
Principle Investigator
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Lab

Nayamin Martinez
Executive Director
Central California Environmental Justice Network

Amy Vasquez
Founder
Unite for Colton

ⁱ deSouza, P. N., Ballare, S., & Niemeier, D. A. (2022). The environmental and traffic impacts of warehouses in southern California. *Journal of Transport Geography*, 104, 103440. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0966692322001636>.

ⁱⁱ California Air Resources Board (CARB). (2005). Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective. <https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/california-air-resources-board-air-quality-and-land-use-handbook-a-community-health-perspective.pdf>.