

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

September 25th, 2023

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Liane Randolph
Chair, California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom and Chair Randolph:

With the passage of SB 1383 (Lara) in 2016, California has taken aggressive steps to significantly reduce methane and other short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) in California, as part of the state's comprehensive climate policies. Climate-smart agricultural practices, including dairy methane reduction, are part of the solution. We urge you to continue the incentive-based approach currently being successfully employed.

Since SB 1383's passage, the dairy farm families throughout California have partnered with California's Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to install more than 300 methane reduction projects on their farms. These efforts, including the Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP) and the Dairy Digester Research and Development Program (DDRDP), remain among the state's most cost effective and productive climate investments¹. The DDRDP program provides 22% of the state's overall GHG reductions, while receiving just 1.7% of the proceeds from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). To date, more than \$2 billion has been invested, leveraging more than \$700 million from the state. According to a December 2022 UC Davis report:

“Our analysis shows that continued implementation and commitment to the incentive-based climate smart solutions that are currently driving voluntary dairy methane reductions in California should, by 2030, achieve the full 40 percent reduction in dairy methane sought by the state regulators without the need for direct regulation.”

¹ According to CARB, the DDRDP is the state's most cost-effective program providing one ton of CO₂e equivalent reductions for each \$9 invested by the state.

The California Legislature remains committed to an incentive-based approach and it is critical that CARB remain committed, as well.

CDFA has also recently developed new Dairy-Plus programs to incent development of projects that provide substantial methane reductions, and significantly improve water quality outcomes in rural disadvantaged communities. CDFA is also preparing to distribute \$10 million, appropriated by the legislature, for important enteric methane reduction research. Finally, the 2023-2024 budget includes \$25 million for CDFA to establish a new program focused on incentivizing enteric methane reductions on dairy and other livestock operations in California.

In addition to these important incentives, the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) Program has been a key driver of dairy, landfill, and wastewater methane reduction projects. We encourage CARB to provide for the beneficial use of methane captured from these operations. Efforts to exclude dairy and livestock methane from the LCFS program, or prematurely avoided methane crediting, are contrary to the intent and requirements of SB 1383.

Moreover, calls for direct regulation of dairy and livestock methane reduction will only lead to California falling well-short of our climate goals. Adopting policies that will lead to leakage is inconsistent with SB 1383 and undermines CARB's national and world leading reputation and efforts to address climate emissions.

In conclusion, we encourage CARB to stay the course and continue to provide the incentives needed to ensure dairy and other methane reductions are achieved consistent with the recently adopted 2022 Scoping Plan Update. At the same time, we will continue to work to ensure that rural communities have clean drinking water and clean air. As representatives of these communities, we understand first-hand the need for balanced actions to ensure our rural communities thrive.

Sincerely,



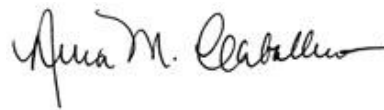
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Assemblymember, 22nd District



MARIE ALVARADO-GIL
Senator, 4th District



DR. JASMEET KAUR BAINS
Assemblymember, 35th District



ANNA M. CABALLERO
Senator, 14th District



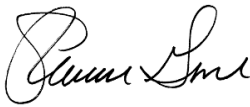
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