

May 2, 2023

Assemblymember Brian Maienschein
Chair, Assembly Committee on Judiciary
1021 O Street, Suite 5640
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1465 (Wicks) – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Maienschein,

The City Council of the City of Carson offers our full support for AB 1465 (Wicks), to increase specified civil and administrative penalties imposed on hydrocarbon refineries when the refinery releases toxic air contaminants. If passed, AB 1465 would help ensure that the penalties associated with unlawful emissions of air contaminants are no longer treated as the cost of doing business. We appreciate that this bill would triple the level of potential civil penalties imposed on refineries for violating six provisions of existing law related to air quality.

Addressing issues related to poor air quality and environmental justice are critically important to our community. Our residents are constantly subjected to negative environmental impacts due to our adjacency to the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and related industries, multiple freeways, and the fact that Carson is home to two major refineries: Marathon Petroleum and Phillips 66, the first of which is the *largest refinery in the state of California* producing 363,000 barrels per day.

As stated - since most air pollution penalties are strict liability violations, industrial entities too frequently treat these penalties as the cost of doing business. Due to the ease of prosecution and frequency of basic violations of the existing air pollution laws, our City fully agrees with the proponents of the measure that the current fines seem too low to be impactful. Therefore, our City Council wholeheartedly contends that these proposed increased fines are essential to helping curb environmental injustice not just in Carson but also throughout the State of California.

For these reasons, City of Carson, supports AB 1465 and requests your AYE vote.

Sincerely,

Carson City Council

CC:

Assemblymember Mike Gipson

Assemblymember Josh Lowenthal

Senator Steven Bradford