DATE

The Honorable Assemblymember Rob Bonta

State Capitol, Room 6005

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1062 (Bonta), Environmental Justice Small Grants -- SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Bonta,

On behalf of your organization, I am writing to express our strong support for AB 1062, Environmental Justice Small Grants. DESCRIPTION OF ORG

Across California, low-income communities and communities of color face a range of pollution burdens, from poor air quality and related environment health illnesses, to contaminated drinking water, to hazardous clean-up sites. AB 1062 will provide a much-needed, permanent source of funding for community solutions to these challenges. In doing so, it will give California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal EPA) a dependable vehicle to provide direct benefits to low-income communities and communities of color overburdened with pollution.

The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal EPA)’s already existing grant program, the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program, has been funding community based organizations to engage in projects that improve the quality of life, enhance positive health outcomes, and reduce pollution in disproportionately impacted communities since 2004. This program is one of the few that provides direct support to community-based organizations working to address environmental justice issues. However, it lacks a dedicated source of funding, and as a result, has only been offered 4 times since it was established in 2002.

This bill will require Cal EPA’s Boards, Departments, and Agencies to contribute no less than 1% of their total annual budget to the grant program. In addition, AB 1062 will also update the existing grant guidelines to include a broader range of environmental justice projects, reflecting the changes to community-based work in the decade since the program was created.

We are pleased to offer our strong support of AB 1062.

Sincerely,

SIGNATURE