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Huntington Sharp  
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July 2, 2019

The Honorable Wendy Carrillo  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 902849  
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: **HOAC Supports AB 1500**

Dear Assemblymember Carrillo:

The Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), which represents the physician health officers of California's sixty-one city and county jurisdictions, supports your AB 1500, which strengthens the local health officer's ability to take action against local threats to public health and safety.

In California, multiple regulatory authorities have jurisdiction over businesses that handle or generate hazardous waste and materials that pose a risk to public safety. Locally, a Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) is responsible for implementing and enforcing hazardous materials and waste laws, and the local health officers who comprise HOAC's membership have general authority to protect the public's health, including expanded authority in cases of a declared emergency. Currently, however, some facilities that pose a substantial endangerment to public health and safety can continue to operate because they do not meet regulatory minimum standards to cease operations immediately, and neither local health officers nor CUPAs have the explicit authority to direct the offending businesses to cease operations.

Your bill would allow the local health authorities, including health officers, to take immediate action directing facilities that pose an imminent and substantial endangerment in a non-declared emergency to temporarily cease operations of their facility (or portions thereof) until the issue is corrected. Health officers will be empowered to require the immediate suspension of the contributing activity and to require an environmental investigation and temporary relocation relief of affected areas when necessary.

AB 1500 will enable health officers to respond more quickly and effectively to public health threats. Thank you for introducing this important measure.

Sincerely,

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

Kat DeBurgh, MPH  
Executive Director