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June 17, 2019

Honorable Toni Atkins
President Pro Tempore
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: HOAC Supports SB 1

Dear Senator Atkins,

The Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), which represents the physician health officers of California's sixty-one city and county jurisdictions, supports your SB 1, the California Environment, Public Health, and Worker's Defense Act.

California's geographic, population, and economic size make its impact global in nature. The state's vast size has also brought an enormous impact on the environment. California has long struggled with some of the most polluted air in the country; discharge of pollution into our water and soil has led to contamination that has degraded the environment and public health.

Your bill provides that any federal or worker safety standard in place and effective as of January 1, 2017, shall remain in effect and be enforceable under state law even if the federal government rolls it back. SB 1 does not impose any new requirements; it simply ensures that the protections that have been in place under federal law, in some case for decades, are not weakened or eliminated because of federal anti-environment actions.

HOAC is dedicated to promoting practices that improve the health of all of California's residents. We would like to thank you for this important proposal, and offer our strong support. Should you have any questions regarding our position on this matter, I invite you to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kat DeBurgh".

Kat DeBurgh, MPH
Executive Director