

# SAVE OUR JOBS

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## **WORKERS URGE AIR BOARD TO KILL THE EMISSIONS TAX, NOT JOBS**

Group seeks elimination of multi-billion dollar tax from proposed cap and trade rule

**SACRAMENTO** - Dozens of workers from all over the state traveled to Sacramento this morning to send a message to the California Air Resources Board (CARB): "Save Our Jobs," driving their point home by donning red t-shirts bearing that sentiment.

At issue is a costly new emissions tax being contemplated by CARB as part of a proposed cap and trade regulation upon which the agency's board is expected to vote today.

A major component of CARB's strategy to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions required under AB 32, the state's global warming law, the cap and trade rule would force regulated entities such as manufacturers and energy producers to pay for up to 10% of emissions allowances that until recently were to be distributed free of charge.

Putting a higher price on emissions allowances means higher energy costs and threatens jobs throughout California's economy, not just those in the energy sector in which many of the workers attending today's meeting are employed.

Government and independent experts alike have cautioned that by going it alone on climate change policy California will likely fall victim to "leakage" – the flight of businesses, jobs and revenues to other states with less stringent regulations.

All of the other US states in the Western Climate Initiative, which CARB hoped would join California in a regional cap and trade program, have tabled their cap and trade plans in the interest of protecting their economies. Similarly, a proposed national cap and trade policy was rejected by a US Congress leery of the costs.

A California-only regulation with billions in added emissions taxes is all but certain to result in leakage. And when businesses downsize or flee the state, jobs will likely be the first and most serious casualty.

With over 2.1 million Californians unemployed, that's a risk the workers who plan to confront the CARB Board today call unacceptable.

The message of these hardworking women and men was clear and urgent: Don't kill our jobs – kill the emissions tax!

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