



September 3, 2008

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The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 375 (Steinberg) – Transportation Planning: Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) respectfully requests your signature on SB 375 by Senator Darrell Steinberg, a comprehensive measure to address greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the transportation sector.

After nearly two-years of negotiations, the measure is less prescriptive with respect to the regional planning process as formerly proposed by the bill. It contains significant and robust processes for local government and public input into the entire process from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) setting the targets, to the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) developing the plans to achieve them. The bill also contains meaningful CEQA reform for specified infill and mixed use projects and successfully aligns the long range transportation planning process with the housing element process.

Furthermore, the amendments made to the bill over the past month recognize the need to rely upon member cities and counties within the regions to develop the sustainable communities strategies within the context of long-range transportation plans to strive towards accomplishing the voluntary regional GHG targets.

CSAC adopted a climate change policy in November of 2007, which acknowledges the need to address the targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from the transportation sector through regional approaches. We also support regional blueprint and transportation planning as a means of achieving more efficient growth and effective infrastructure investments in California. Our policy supports these regional approaches over a one-size-fits all statewide approach. CSAC finds that SB 375 is consistent with our policy direction and provides sufficient flexibility to allow these very successful regional approaches to continue.

For these reasons, CSAC respectfully requests your signature on SB 375. If you need additional information regarding our position on this measure, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 327-7500 ext. 509 or dbaker@counties.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'DeAnn Baker'.

DeAnn Baker
Legislative Representative

cc: The Honorable Darrell Steinberg, California State Senate