



July 27, 2023

Assembly Member Chris Holden, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 422 (PORTANTINO) – CONCERN

Dear Assembly Member Holden and Committee Members:

The undersigned organizations are writing to express concern about SB 422 by Senator Portantino. This bill expands the application of existing expedited environmental review procedures for environmentally mandated projects to apply to all regulations requiring the “reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases, criteria air pollutants, or toxic air contaminants,” which is extremely broad.

It is unclear exactly what additional projects this bill is intended to include, or what the true impact would be. We are also concerned with the precedent that expedited review be granted based solely on labor standards, rather than environmental leadership criteria and the merits of the project itself.

The Governor vetoed a substantially similar bill (SB 1136) in 2022, stating that “this bill restricts CARB from using standard California Environmental Quality Act streamlining tools for environmentally beneficial regulations” and that “this bill would create significant delays in the promulgation of environmentally beneficial regulations.”

We welcome an opportunity to discuss the bill with the author and sponsors but want to formally register our concerns with the bill in print.

Sincerely,

Merrian Borgeson
California Director, Climate & Clean Energy
Natural Resources Defense Council

Dan Ress
Staff Attorney
Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment

Joseph Desmond
Executive Director
California Efficiency and Demand
Management Council

Cc: Senator Portantino