



County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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June 26, 2025

The Honorable Dawn Addis
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5330
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1243 – Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act of 2025

Dear Assemblymember Addis,

On behalf of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our strong support for Assembly Bill 1243, the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act of 2025. This important legislation reflects the urgent need for bold, equitable climate action that holds fossil fuel companies accountable for their share of the damage caused by the climate crisis.

Modeled after the federal Superfund law, AB 1243 would direct the California Environmental Protection Agency to identify major fossil fuel entities responsible for significant greenhouse gas emissions in California between 1990 and 2045 and to recover the costs of climate-related damages caused during that period. The revenues collected would establish a dedicated Climate Superfund to invest in resilience and adaptation projects across the state, with at least 40% of funds benefiting disadvantaged communities.

California is already facing the escalating costs of climate change—from record-breaking heat and prolonged droughts to devastating wildfires and rising sea levels. These impacts are deeply felt in Santa Cruz County, where the 2020 CZU Lightning Complex fires alone caused more than \$2.4 billion in reported losses. Local governments and frontline communities are bearing the brunt of these disasters, often without adequate resources to respond and recover.

AB 1243 helps correct this imbalance by shifting some of the financial responsibility from taxpayers to the fossil fuel companies that have contributed most to climate change. In doing so, the bill not only promotes justice and accountability but also supports the priorities outlined in our County's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan,

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including community preparedness, climate resilience, and a just transition to a cleaner economy.

We also appreciate AB 1243's commitment to transparency, equity, and collaboration with tribal governments and state agencies, ensuring that implementation remains effective and fair.

Thank you for your leadership in authoring this vital legislation. The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors is proud to support AB 1243 and urges its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Felipe Hernandez", with a horizontal line above the first name.

FELIPE HERNANDEZ, Chair
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

cc:
Assemblymember Pellerin
Assembly Speaker Rivas
Senator Laird