

COUNTY OF SONOMA
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October 29, 2025

The Honorable Assemblymember Dawn Addis
1021 O Street, Suite 4120
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0030

Subject: AB 1243 – Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Legislation – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Addis,

I write on behalf of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors in support of your bill, AB 1243. The California Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act is co-authored by two Members that represent Sonoma County in the Legislature, Assemblymember Chris Rogers and Assemblymember Damon Connolly.

The climate crisis, resulting primarily from the combustion of fossil fuels, is an immediate, grave threat to the people, biodiversity, environment, the state economy, and communities throughout the state, including those in Sonoma County.

Sonoma County has experienced impacts from escalating fires, floods, extreme heat episodes, and other disasters related to climate change, including the devastating Tubbs fire in 2017 that destroyed over 5,000 homes. From 1980–2024, 46 extreme weather and climate disaster events impacted California, with losses exceeding \$1 billion each.

In January 2025 fatal firestorms raged across Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, killing 30 people, destroying entire communities and forcing tens of thousands of residents to evacuate. Over 12,000 homes, businesses and institutions burned. The devastation is estimated to cost Californians a staggering \$250 to \$275 billion.

Across the state, local governments and taxpayers are bearing the immense, mounting costs of rebuilding from climate damages, increased insurance premiums, property taxes, and utility bills. State and local budgets are stretched to the brink as climate risks rise, jeopardizing public services, and forcing communities like those in Sonoma County to carry the burden to address climate-related emergencies.

Your bill, AB 1243, the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act, will require the multinational fossil fuel companies that are responsible for and profiting in the billions from the climate emergency help pay for their damages.

The bill directs CalEPA to complete a first-of-its-kind comprehensive study of the true cost of climate damage to ensure polluters pay their fair share. The Act will hold the largest polluters accountable for the costs to California from climate damage caused by their products with compensatory fee amounts proportional to companies' self-reported past emissions from 1990-2024.

AB 1243 also advances California's commitment to equity and environmental justice. At least 40% of funds from the Polluters Pay Climate Fund will go to disadvantaged communities to remedy past climate damages and build a more resilient and equitable California. The funds will support urgently needed projects such as implementing wildfire prevention measures like home hardening, upgrading stormwater management systems to prevent flooding, and installing solar panels and energy storage systems to reduce energy costs and increase resilience during power outages. Additionally, these funds could help develop urban green spaces to mitigate heat islands and improve air quality. Importantly, it could fund programs to support first responders and additional workers who provide essential services during climate disasters.

Sonoma County supports the Act because it is aligned with existing County climate policies including the 2019 climate emergency declaration, and the County's Climate Resilience Comprehensive Action Plan. Further, AB 1243 proposes to shift the burden of paying for the high costs of recovery from climate calamities from California taxpayers to the international oil and gas corporations that have been recording year-over-year profits in the many billions of dollars for the past few years.

Sonoma County strongly supports AB 1243.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynda Hopkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small circle at the end of the last name.

Lynda Hopkins, Chair

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors