

October 5, 2017

Senator Bennet:

I am writing this letter to provide the California Air Resources Board's strong support for the Transparent Pollution Accounting Act. Estimating the social cost of climate damage is a critical component in California's efforts to address climate change and we support the use of the Interagency Working Group (IWG), as supported by the Bill.

The IWG estimates have been highly relevant for California's policy efforts on greenhouse emissions and have taken on new importance due to recent state legislation, Assembly Bill 197 and Assembly Bill 398, that require California to consider the social cost of greenhouse gas emissions in the design of climate change mitigation programs and plans.

While the current federal administration has recently withdrawn IWG social cost reports and disbanded the IWG, there is no change in the federal directive for regulatory agencies to evaluate the full costs and benefits of regulatory action. Many states, including California, rely on the IWG social cost estimates to implement economically sound climate strategies and coordinate cost-effective mitigation across jurisdictions.

I have full confidence that the Transparent Pollution Accounting Act will lead an effort that will continue the use of the IWG social cost estimates, provide a framework for advancing the IWG estimates based on the latest science, and build an improved foundation for the expanded use of social cost valuations in the future.

There is a critical need for continued and aggressive action to combat climate change. The IWG social cost estimates, as supported by the Transparent Pollution Accounting Act, have been in place and received bipartisan support for nearly a decade and remain the most relevant, reliable, and appropriate metrics for agencies, states, and jurisdictions around the globe to estimate the environmental damages of climate change and take appropriate cost-effective action.

Sincerely,



Mary D. Nichols
Chair