



CIPA

California Independent Petroleum Association

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Signature Gathering Begins to Repeal Law that Will Increase Prices at the Pump

Signature gathering begins to repeal law that is a political war on California's energy workers and producers, costing Californians quality of life and jobs with skyrocketing gas prices

SACRAMENTO, CA (Oct. 20, 2022) – Frustrated by the state's high gas prices, and failure to take advantage of tapping its in-state oil reserves despite the nation's strictest environmental standards, a coalition of independent oil producers and workers have launched signature gathering for the Stop the Energy Shutdown petition.

The petition seeks to put a repeal of Senate Bill 1137 before the voters, which instituted a statewide 3,200-foot oil well setback without any scientific basis. Prior to SB 1137's passage, existing state and local laws already required various setback distances from oil wells which were established by thoughtful scientific review. This law threatens to further increase California's already high gas prices by decreasing in-state energy supply, and instead requires California to rely on more expensive imported foreign oil that contributes greater Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGs).

"This referendum will allow California voters to better control the prices they pay at the pump by removing barriers to boost the supply of our homegrown oil production," said Rock Zierman, Chief Executive Officer of the California Independent Petroleum Association, which is spearheading this effort. "Governor Gavin Newsom may say he is going after energy companies, but in reality, he is going after the high-paying careers of over 50,000 hardworking Californians on the heels of more than two years of COVID-19 related economic turmoil and a looming recession."

Every day Californians consume 1.8 million barrels of oil. If California oil workers go out of business, this demand will not cease but will be replaced by foreign oil from carbon-emitting tankers imported from suppliers like Saudi Arabia, Ecuador and Iraq.

"We have worked with legislative leaders in California for decades to ensure we have the strictest environmental regulations in the nation and world to protect our air, water, soil and to provide safe working conditions," Zierman said. "There are no scientific justifications for a 3,200-foot setback. As Governor Newsom has implored us over the past two years, we must 'follow the science' and use evidence-based data when enacting policy, something that SB 1137 fails to do."

There is no scientific justification for a 3,200-foot setback. The legislation fails to provide peer-reviewed literature specific to California that recommends a 3,200 foot setback. On the contrary, the state already has a setback and individual projects comply with CEQA mitigation requirements that are based on actual scientific review.

“We are gathering signatures because we know that if we fail to act, families will suffer, our communities will falter, and Californians will pay the price at more than just the pump,” concluded Zierman.

The Stop the Energy Shutdown committee has raised over \$8.1 million to date for their effort.

To learn more about CIPA, our members and our mission, visit www.cipa.org.

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The California Independent Petroleum Association (CIPA) is a non-profit, non-partisan trade association representing approximately 300 independent crude oil and natural gas producers, royalty owners, and service and supply companies operating in California. Our members represent approximately 70% of California's total oil production and 90% of California's natural gas production. Since 1976, when the Independent Oil & Gas Producers' Association merged with the California Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association to form CIPA, the association has kept the political, regulatory and public policy interests of independent oil and gas producers at the forefront of its agenda.