

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **Californians Rush to Sign Petition to Stop Increased Imports of Energy from Foreign Countries**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (Dec. 12, 2022)** – In less than two months, over 978,000 Californians rushed to sign the *Stop the Energy Shutdown* petition, which has been turned in to county registrar of voter offices throughout California.

The petition seeks to put a referendum of Senate Bill (SB) 1137 before the voters, which instituted a statewide 3,200-foot oil well setback without any scientific basis. Five days before the end of the 2022 legislative session, Governor Gavin Newsom circumvented the normal bill review process by introducing Senate Bill 1137, which curtails in-state production of oil. By his admission, he had to cajole legislators to change their vote in the final hours of session to get it passed.

The law threatens to further increase California's already high gas prices by decreasing in-state energy supplies and replacing those barrels with expensive imported foreign oil that contributes greater Greenhouse Gas emissions. Before SB 1137's passage, existing state and local laws already required various setback distances from oil wells established by thoughtful scientific review.

"California-produced oil is the most climate-compliant oil in the world. Producers in our state must adhere to the state's greenhouse gas reduction program and account for all emissions. Foreign oil imports are totally exempt from those requirements," said Rock Zierman, Chief Executive Officer of the California Independent Petroleum Association (CIPA), which is spearheading this effort.

The Los Angeles Times [reported](#) that, “the California Air Resources Board estimates that ships alone are pumping an additional 20 tons of smog-forming nitrogen oxides into the air each day — the equivalent of adding 5.8 million passenger cars to the region — while adding as much lung-damaging diesel particulate matter as nearly 100,000 big rig trucks.”

“There is absolutely no reason California should be held hostage and export our wealth to OPEC+ countries,” said Zierman. “But by strangling our domestic supply, Governor Newsom is promoting greater greenhouse gas emissions generated in other parts of the world and making gasoline more expensive.”

To learn more about CIPA, our members, and our mission, visit [www.cipa.org](http://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.*