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California State Senate

SENATOR
BEN ALLEN

TWENTY-SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT



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September 22, 2018

South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Dr.
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

RE: Proposed Rule 1410 Hydrogen Fluoride Storage and Use at Petroleum Refineries

Dear Chair Parker and Committee Members:

After reviewing your staff findings as presented at AQMD's April 28, 2018 meeting, it seems clear that the current use of modified hydrofluoric (MHF) acid presents serious potential risks to communities surrounding those oil refineries where it is used.

As an elected official representing residents living near and working at the Torrance facility, I understand the needs to protect local jobs and ensure our community's economy continues to thrive. I also know that we need to prioritize safety against public health dangers. As I look at the potential options staff is currently presenting to the Board, it is my sense that Option C could be a sensible path for moving forward, maximizing the protection of public safety in a sensible way by ensuring that any adopted mitigation measures are proven effective at significantly reducing the risk of a catastrophic event, and if that threshold cannot be met, or if staff are not confident that any mitigation measures could achieve that standard, MHF would be phased out.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Allen".

Ben Allen
Senator, 26th District