



May 27, 2019

Honorable Senator Toni G. Atkins
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB-1 California Environmental, Public Health, and Workers Defense Act of 2019.
– SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Atkins,

Independent California is a non-profit that seeks policy changes to move California in a more independent direction. I am writing today to express our support for SB 1, which enshrines some of the better federal environmental, public health, and workplace safety standards in state law, shielding Californians against ongoing efforts to gut these protections at the federal level.

If we were to offer one way to strengthen this bill, it would be to make its provisions permanent rather than having them expire on January 20, 2025 (presumably in anticipation of the certain end of the Trump presidency). If recent history is any guide, Californians can expect maybe half of presidential administrations to be serious about the environment, public health, and labor protections; Californians can continue to expect to be far ahead of the federal government in environmental progress; and California voters can expect to cast merely symbolic votes in presidential general elections and to be grossly and historically underrepresented in the U.S. Senate.

Which is to say, let's be realistic about what the federal government is and is not, and to what extent the current U.S. presidency is merely a symptom of deeper problems. There is nothing wrong with the world's 5th largest economy (and its largest direct democracy) setting our own standards, and there is nothing wrong with this bill stating so unapologetically.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Marin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dave Marin
Chair of the Board
Independent California
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