

April 3, 2008

Senator Cox,

The El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce would like to express our strong support for Senate Bill 1662. This local bill is a common sense fix to the Health and Safety Code that empowers the region to have continued economic prosperity by acknowledging the simple and undisputed scientific fact that air currents, as correctly identified by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), do not recognize political boundaries to form air basins but rather are effected by physical boundaries. This technical fix will allow the region to continue to place jobs near where people live in a manor necessary for successful implantation of the regions award winning Blueprint land use plan.

Under current California state law, El Dorado County is designated by the Air Resources Board as part of the Mountain Counties Air Basin and is not included in the Sacramento Valley air basin and is divided along an arbitrary political boundary, not a physical boundary, which is what truly divides and creates air basins. However, under a similar Federal air quality designation process, the United States Environmental Protection Agency includes portions of El Dorado and Placer Counties in the Sacramento Metro Federal nonattainment area, which includes portions of the state designated areas of the Mountain Counties. Under Senate Bill 1662, the federal air quality designation process would be recognized and would allow Emission Reduction Credit transfers to be transferred to El Dorado County from any area within the Sacramento Metro federal non attainment area.

Currently, El Dorado County does not have a significant amount of Emission Reduction Credits in reserve. SB 1662 would allow further potential for economic prosperity in El Dorado County while providing opportunities to fund emission reductions inside the federal non attainment area. This will only contribute to improved air quality in our region.

As El Dorado County continues to thrive, it is important that the community has the ability to grow and not become caught in a strangle hold of legislation that is need of a technical amendment to make current law reflect the scientific reality of air patterns. By supporting AB 1662 and falling into accordance with the federal designation process, we can support both business friendly legislation, while continuing to lead the charge in environmental responsibility.

Sincerely,

Debbie Manning
President & CEO

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Chairman of the Board