



Prop. 23 Threatens Public Health & Would Kill Efforts to Reduce Greenhouse Gases in California

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Two Texas oil companies are spending millions to push Prop. 23 – The Dirty Energy Proposition - that would kill California clean energy and air pollution reduction standards. Four years ago, California passed a clean air law (AB 32) that holds polluters accountable and requires them to reduce air pollution that threatens human health and contributes to global climate change. This law has launched California to the forefront of the clean technology industry, sparking innovation and clean energy businesses that are creating hundreds of thousands of new California jobs. The tragic oil spill in the Gulf reinforces the urgent need to reduce our dependence on costly, dangerous oil. But the oil companies' proposition would allow polluters to avoid our state's clean energy standards, kill competition and jobs from California's clean technology companies, and keep us addicted to dirty oil.

Prop. 23 - The Dirty Energy Proposition - would create more air pollution in California and threaten public health.

- California is home to some of the worst air pollution in the nation, and our reliance on fossil fuels is to blame. Over 91 percent of Californians live in counties that were assigned failing air quality grades by the American Lung Association (ALA).
- Each year, according to the ALA, California's air pollution crisis contributes to thousands of premature deaths, 9,400 hospitalizations, and more than 300,000 respiratory illnesses for California families. We owe it to our children and future generations to provide clean, healthy air.
- **Improved air quality promotes public health.** Reductions in harmful air pollution due to AB 32 would lead to hundreds of fewer premature deaths each year.
- Prop. 23 would let the Texas oil companies and other polluters off the hook for reducing their pollution – drastically increasing air pollution and public health risks.

Public Health Benefits of AB 32 Scoping Plan in California in 2020 (Including Transportation, Electricity and Natural Gas Sectors)		
Health Endpoint	Avoided Impacts in Year 2020 (mean)	Value (mean, in millions of dollars)
Premature Death	780	\$4,300
Hospitalization (respiratory)	87	\$2.0
Hospitalization (cardiovascular)	170	\$4.8
Asthma and other Lower Respiratory Symptoms	12,000	\$0.1
Acute Bronchitis	980	\$0.3
Work Loss Days	77,000	\$10
Minor Restricted Activity Days	450,000	\$17
TOTAL:		\$4,400

Sources: *Climate Change Scoping Plan Appendix H*, California Air Resources Board, December 2008. Health impacts values are in 2007 dollars and were calculated using the health impacts assessment methodology in NRDC *Boosting the Benefits* report, June 2008.

(more)

Prop. 23 would mean continued environmental harm.

- By passing AB 32, California took a leading role in trying to reduce greenhouse gases and pollution. Rolling back California clean air laws would set a dangerous precedent that could chill efforts nationwide and across the globe to control pollution and address climate change.
- California is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of rising global temperatures and climate change. If global emissions of heat-trapping gases are not curbed, our state's average annual temperature could rise by more than 10 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the century. This is expected to cause:
 - Roughly 80 percent more days conducive to dangerous levels of smog in Los Angeles and the San Joaquin Valley – areas already suffering from some of the unhealthiest air in the country.
 - Reduction of the Sierra snowpack. As more precipitation falls as rain instead of snow and snow melts more quickly, scientists estimate that our “reservoir in the sky” could be significantly reduced from what it is today – posing extreme challenges to the state's agricultural systems and large cities in the south that depend on the Sierra snow for water.
 - Dramatic increases in extreme weather events and wildfires.

Prop. 23 would increase dependence on dangerous, costly oil.

- The tragic spill in the Gulf has reinforced that we must move to cleaner sources of energy to reduce our dependence on dangerous, costly oil. Prop. 23 would result in greater use of oil in California and increase the risk of accidents like that in the Gulf Coast.
- By killing AB 32, Prop. 23 would not only hurt competition from California clean energy businesses, it would also reduce consumer choices by making alternatives to fossil fuels much more expensive for consumers.

Prop. 23 would kill clean energy and technology jobs, innovation and billions of dollars of investment in California.

- The Dirty Energy Proposition would kill competition from California's newly emerging clean energy businesses – wind, solar and other clean energy sources that would reduce energy costs and our dependence on fossil fuels.
- Clean energy businesses and technologies are exceptional bright spots in our economy. AB 32 has put California in a unique position to lead the clean energy and technology market, both in the United States and abroad.
 - **500,000 employees work in clean technology or green jobs in California**, according to a recent report by the California Employment Development Department.
 - Since 2005, **California green jobs have grown 10 times faster than the statewide average.**
 - **California's clean technology sector received \$9 billion cumulative venture capital investment from 2005-09, including \$2.1 billion in investment capital in 2009** – more than five times the investment in our nearest competitor, Massachusetts.
 - **There are more than 12,000 clean tech companies in California.**
- If we suspend AB 32, California would lose hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in investments to other states.