

AB 1645 (MURATSUCHI): HYDROGEN FLUORIDE: NOTICE OF USE: SUBSTITUTION

POSITION: The Chamber's Energy & Water Committee voted to OPPOSE this bill on May 4, 2017.

STATUS: AB 1654 was introduced by Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi on February 17, 2017. The bill was re-referred to the Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials on April 18, 2017. The hearing was postponed by the committee on April 25, 2017.

AT-A-GLANCE

AB 1645 requires a refinery that handles, stores, or maintains more than 250 gallons of hydrogen fluoride to, if possible, convert to a known, significantly less hazardous substitute by January 1, 2020.

SUMMARY

AB 1645 requires a refinery that handles, stores, or maintains more than 250 gallons of hydrogen fluoride, including hydrofluoric acid (HF) and modified hydrofluoric acid to, if possible, convert to a known, significantly less hazardous substitute by January 1, 2020. If this is not possible for the refinery, the bill will prohibit a refinery located within two miles of a residential dwelling to stop the handling, maintaining, or storing of hydrogen fluoride, hydrofluoric acid, and modified hydrofluoric acid by January 1, 2020.

ANALYSIS

CalChamber asserts that there are already robust safety regulations in place at the local, state, and federal levels. AB 1645 essentially bans the use of HF and doesn't consider the negative economic impacts that ban will bring. Fluorine-containing materials are used not only in refineries, but in refrigerants, pharmaceutical intermediates, and fluoropolymers. Currently, there is no known HF substitute. If passed, this bill has the ability to negatively impact multiple industries in the state.

SUPPORT

- Action Now
- American Veterans (AMVETS)
- Apostolic Faith Center
- California Communities Against Toxics
- California Kids IAQ
- California Safe Schools
- Coalition For A Safe Environment
- Community Dreams
- Del Amo Action Committee
- EMERGE
- NAACP- San Pedro-Wilmington Branch # 1069
- San Pedro & Peninsula Homeowners Coalition
- Sierra Club California
- Society For Positive Action
- St. Philomena Social Justice Ministry
- Torrance Refinery Action Alliance
- Wilmington Improvement Network
- Five individuals

OPPOSITION

- American Chemistry Council
- California Chamber of Commerce
- California Independent Oil Marketers Association
- California Independent Petroleum Association
- California Manufacturers & Technology Association

- California State Association of Electrical Workers
- California State Pipe Trades Council
- Chemical Industry Council of California
- Industrial Environmental Association
- International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
- National Association of Chemical Distributors
- State Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO
- Western States Petroleum Association