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June 23, 2025

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
1021 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 30 (Alvarez) –SUPPORT

Dear Chair Blakespear,

On behalf of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) and the over 2,000 member businesses and over 300,000 jobs that we represent, I am writing to express our support for AB 30 (Alvarez). As the largest local chamber on the west coast, we are supportive of policies and legislation that aim to address the growing cost of living for hard-working Californians.

The Chamber is in strong support of Assembly Bill 30 (Alvarez), a bipartisan measure that would expand access to E15 fuel, offering California consumers cleaner and more affordable fuel options at the pump. With Californians facing some of the highest living costs in the nation, AB 30 represents a common-sense solution to help reduce gasoline prices and ease the state's affordability crisis—while also cutting emissions and improving public health.

Currently, California consumers can only purchase gasoline with a 10% ethanol blend (E10), even though E15 (15% ethanol, 85% gasoline) was approved for use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2011. California remains the only state in the nation that has not authorized E15, while drivers in the other 49 states have safely logged more than 140 billion miles using this fuel. According to a study by economists from UC Berkeley and the U.S. Naval Academy, switching to E15 could save California drivers 20 cents per gallon—adding up to \$2.7 billion in annual fuel savings. Despite these benefits, regulatory delays have kept E15 off the California market, forcing residents to pay more at the pump while the rest of the country enjoys savings. AB 30 would fix this by authorizing the sale of E15 in California, allowing consumers access to a lower-cost fuel option without unnecessary delay.

E15 could begin saving drivers money immediately upon approval, without requiring any new vehicle upgrades or infrastructure investments. Additionally, it has been shown to reduce harmful particulate emissions by 18% compared to E10, improving air quality while maintaining the performance and safety standards Californians expect.

For these reasons, we respectfully request the committee to support AB 30. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Justine Murray, Executive Director of Public Affairs, at jmurray@sdchamber.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Cate". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and last name "Cate" clearly distinguishable.

Chris Cate
President & CEO
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce