

Thank you for your interest in supporting AB 40 (Bonta). Below are instructions on how to submit your letter of support:

1. Put this letter on your organization's letterhead. Adapt and edit to fit your organization.
2. Submit at: <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>
  - a. Create an account. Select 'Submit a Letter.' Then, choose the bill, your organization, the relevant committee, indicate 'Support,' and upload your letter.

As of 6/15/26 letters should be directed to the [Senate Environmental Quality Committee](#).

## [INSERT ORGANIZATION LETTERHEAD]

**June 20, 2026**

The Honorable Senator Catherine S. Blakespear  
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 3230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **AB 40 (Bonta): Community First Coal Review Act – SUPPORT**

Dear **Senator** Blakespear:

Climate Future California (CFCa) is a nonpartisan, volunteer-led nonprofit, advocating for equitable, sustainable, and cost-effective climate solutions for our state. It was formerly the state lobby arm of the long established Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL). Our Alameda chapter has over 300 active members who actively work to promote a healthy Bay Area, including the Area of West Oakland described in AB40.

CFCa is pleased to express our strong support for AB 40 (Bonta), the Community First Coal Review Act, which ensures that new or expanded coal handling, storage, and export projects are subject to current scientific understanding and up-to-date environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Specifically, AB 40 requires updated environmental review when there are significant changes in the type or volume of coal handled by a project, or when a previously certified Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is 10 or more years old, helping to ensure that project approvals reflect the latest information regarding potential public health and environmental impacts.

Large-scale coal projects can heavily impact communities throughout California, including neighborhoods located along rail corridors, near freight facilities, and adjacent to ports and industrial operations. The movement of millions of tons of coal annually can generate coal dust, diesel emissions, and particulate matter pollution that travel far beyond the boundaries of a project site. As California continues to confront the cumulative health and environmental burdens of air pollution and extreme heat, particularly in disadvantaged and overburdened communities, it is critical that environmental review processes provide decision-makers and the public with accurate, current information about the detrimental impacts of these projects.

The need for AB 40 is urgent. Earlier this month, the Trump Administration announced approximately \$700 million in federal funding to support coal-fired power plants and coal export infrastructure, including \$75 million for the construction of the Oakland Bulk and Oversized Terminal (OBOT). The prospect of a major coal export terminal in West Oakland raises great environmental and public health concerns. West Oakland is one of California's most environmentally overburdened communities and was designated a first-year priority community under the Community Air Protection Program established by AB 617 due to its documented cumulative pollution burden. Residents already experience disproportionate exposure to air pollution from freight movement, industrial operations, and nearby freeways.

Peer-reviewed research funded by the California Air Resources Board in 2023 demonstrated that passing coal trains significantly increase ambient concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), a pollutant linked to premature mortality, cardiovascular disease, respiratory illness, adverse birth outcomes, and developmental harms. Research increasingly shows that health risks persist even at concentrations below existing regulatory standards and that vulnerable populations—including children, older adults, low-income communities, and communities of color—bear a disproportionate share of these impacts. Communities like West Oakland should not be asked to bear additional environmental and public health risks based on outdated environmental analyses. Yet, the West Oakland terminal project continues to rely on an EIR in 2002 and last updated in 2012, neither of which evaluated coal as a commodity. Updated environmental reviews are particularly important as California works to achieve its climate goals and address the growing risks posed by greenhouse gas emissions in a wildfire-prone state. AB 40 ensures that major coal projects are evaluated using current project conditions and current science before they move forward.

This bill is important to CFCa because we fight for the rights of our citizens to live in as clean and safe of an environment as possible. We also believe that our nation's centuries old history of environmental injustice should stop with our generation. This bill will protect our neighbors and promote justice in a direct and overt way.

AB 40 appropriately targets large-scale coal projects with the greatest potential to impact public health and the environment by requiring updated environmental review for facilities that transport five million or more short tons of coal annually. The bill ensures that communities and decision-makers have access to current information about a project's potential impacts, particularly when scientific understanding or project conditions have significantly changed over time. By strengthening transparency and public participation, AB 40 helps ensure that decisions affecting air quality, public health, and environmental justice are based on the best available information.

For the reasons stated above, CFCa strongly supports AB 40 (Bonta) and respectfully requests your "AYE" vote.

Sincerely,

[Authorized Signatory Name]

[Title]

[Organization Name]

[Email Address]

[Phone Number]