

March 22, 2016

Assemblymember Shirley N. Weber, Chair
Committee on Elections and Redistricting
Via email: Ethan.Jones@asm.ca.gov

Re: Support for AB 2002 (Atkins/Stone/Levine)

Re: Assembly Bill 2002 (Atkins, Stone, and Levine) — California Coastal Commission: Lobbying Transparency — SUPPORT

Dear Chairwoman Weber,

CALPIRG has long supported measures to disclose lobbying activities in state government, so that the public can understand corporations' interests and influence over state policy decisions.

The California Coastal Commission plays a critical role in protecting the coastline of California and ensuring its environmental and economic benefits are shared by all who live here. However, recent events at the California Coastal Commission have raised public concerns about the influence of outside interest groups on the Commission's decisions, and threatened to undermine public trust in the agency.

Lobbyists who work in the California Legislature or before numerous other state agencies must publically report their activities quarterly. In contrast, current California law does not require lobbyists for issues before the Commission to register with the state government and disclose their interactions with the committee to the public.

AB 2002 would amend the Political Reform Act to require paid consultants who lobby on behalf of projects that come before the Coastal Commission to register as lobbyists with the state government and publically report their client, their pay, and the issue discussed. We believe that increased transparency of lobbying activities could help to ensure integrity, transparency, and accountability in the Commission's actions and help to bolster public faith in the Commission.

We applaud the bill's authors for pushing forward this important legislation and we urge your committee to support AB 2002.

Sincerely,



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