

February 10, 2016

The Honorable Senator Pavley  
Chair, Natural Resources and Water Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5046  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: Senate Bill 887 (Pavley) – Natural Gas Storage Wells – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Pavley,

The Aliso Canyon gas leak has polluted our air, exacerbated climate change, and directly harmed the lives of many Porter Ranch residents. SB 887 will provide stronger safety regulations and oversight of natural gas storage wells to help ensure this kind of disaster does not happen again.

On October 23, 2015, an uncontrolled leak from a natural gas storage well was detected at SoCal Gas Company's facility in Aliso Canyon. This massive methane leak, which SoCal Gas still has yet to stop, has harmed nearby residents and polluted our environment.

Many Porter Ranch residents have been displaced from their homes out of fear from the long-term health effects of methane exposure. Public schools in Porter Ranch have been relocated, and children have fallen ill.

In addition to harming nearby residents, this leak has polluted our atmosphere with a potent greenhouse gas. According to EPA, methane's impact on climate change over a 100-year period is 25 times greater than carbon dioxide.<sup>1</sup> And as of February 4, 2016, this leak has released more than 86 million kilograms of methane into the atmosphere.<sup>2</sup> Although efforts are currently underway to curtail this specific leak, there isn't enough regulation or oversight to prevent another such disaster from occurring in the future.

SB 887 would help fix this problem by reducing the safety risks of out-of-date wells and mitigating damage caused by any future leaks. Specifically, this bill requires oversight agencies to convene a panel of independent experts to develop best practices for natural gas storage, perform a risk assessment of natural gas wells and report findings to the Legislature, annually inspect all gas storage wells, and enforce prescribed safety standards. The bill also requires the State Air Resources Board to develop guidelines for a monitoring program to track ambient concentrations of natural gas around facilities to identify leaks faster. Collectively these measures will improve safety regulations and oversight of natural gas wells and help prevent massive gas leaks like the one at Aliso Canyon from happening again.

SB 887 will help protect public health and safety in California from the dangers associated with natural gas storage. We applaud the bill's authors for pushing this important legislation forward, and urge your committee to support SB 887.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/gases/ch4.html>

<sup>2</sup> [http://arb.ca.gov/research/aliso\\_canyon/aliso\\_canyon\\_natural\\_gas\\_leak\\_updates-sa\\_flights\\_thru\\_jan\\_26\\_2016.pdf](http://arb.ca.gov/research/aliso_canyon/aliso_canyon_natural_gas_leak_updates-sa_flights_thru_jan_26_2016.pdf)

Sincerely,



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