

**DOCKETED**

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## Does the CEC Hate the Poor?

I am seriously challenging the California Energy Commission to prove that it does not hate poor and working families.

Because from where many Californians stand, the CEC appears committed to raising the cost of living and working in this state so high that poor families are forced into impossible choices: move out of California, become unsheltered, live in a car they cannot afford to maintain, or go without basic necessities.

I am Native American. My culture is deeply respectful of Mother Earth. But respect for the planet can never come at the expense of family survival. If a climate solution threatens family prosperity, then it is not a solution. It is a policy failure.

Growing up, my family could never afford brand-new tires. Many families still cannot. Most people do not have enough savings to absorb a major unexpected expense. Forcing families to buy new tires instead of retreads could be the difference between food, shelter, transportation, and keeping a job.

This is exactly the kind of harm created by the CEC's replacement tire efficiency program. It may look good on paper, but in real life it punishes the people who can least afford it.

We have seen this pattern before. California pushed refineries out of state, even though California refineries are among the safest and cleanest in the world. Now more fuel must be made elsewhere, often under weaker environmental standards, and shipped thousands of miles using bunker fuel. That does not reduce global emissions. It shifts them, increases risk, destroys thousands of California jobs, and raises costs for all families.

The damage to working families is real. The damage to California's economy is real. And the people paying the highest price are the people with the least ability to pay.

Stop hurting California's working poor.

Stop the replacement tire efficiency program.

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