

# California State Senate

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May 19, 2025

The Hon. Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE: Protecting Working Families and Preserving Hispanic Jobs Amid Refinery Closures**

Dear Governor Newsom,

We write to express serious concern over the projected refinery closures in California - including facilities in Los Angeles and the Bay Area - and the consequences these shutdowns could have on working families, especially Hispanic communities across the state.

Our families are already being squeezed by the rising cost of living. Gasoline is not a luxury. It is a basic need for millions of working-class Californians – particularly those in industries like construction, agriculture, and service work – who often drive long distances and work shifts that public transit doesn't accommodate. [Analysts have projected](#) gas prices could soar past \$8 per gallon by 2026 if these refinery closures proceed unchecked. For Hispanic families – who are more likely to live paycheck to paycheck – this isn't just inconvenient; it's destabilizing.

Beyond fuel prices, this issue is about jobs. The energy industry has provided tens of thousands of good-paying, upwardly mobile jobs to Hispanic workers – from skilled trades and operations to logistics and contracting. Refinery closures threaten to gut these jobs and leave working people behind. As the president of the California Labor Federation recently said, "[there is no just transition](#)."

We also urge your administration to examine which legislative and executive actions, regulatory directives or permitting restrictions have contributed to these refinery closures. Have state policies or agency-level decisions signaled to refineries that continued operation in California is no longer viable? If so, your administration must revisit or modify these actions to preserve critical refining capacity. Californians deserve transparency about the role government policies may be playing in the shrinking of our energy infrastructure.

The solution isn't more government mandates – it's balance. We must embrace a practical, pro-worker energy strategy that meets environmental goals without compromising family budgets, job opportunities, or energy reliability. That means:

- **Keeping existing refining capacity online** while California builds the infrastructure for cleaner alternatives. Any transition should be paced and thoughtful – not punitive.
- **Streamlining permitting and regulatory processes** to give refiners clarity and consistency, rather than forcing them out through bureaucratic uncertainty.
- **Protecting jobs and encouraging workforce development** in both traditional and new energy sectors, with an intentional focus on communities that rely on these paychecks.
- **Incentivizing innovation rather than punishing production.** The industry is already adapting with renewable diesel and lower-carbon technologies – let's reward those efforts, not regulate them out of existence.

California should lead the nation in energy innovation and affordability – not push working-class families out of the state with skyrocketing costs and shrinking job prospects.

We look forward to your response, and to working together to find common-sense solutions that preserve our state's economic foundation, protect Hispanic workers, and ensure energy freedom for all Californians.

Sincerely,



**Suzette Valladares**  
Senator, 23<sup>rd</sup> District



**Marie Alvarado-Gil**  
Senator, 4<sup>th</sup> District



**Melissa Hurtado**  
Senator, 16<sup>th</sup> District



**Kelly Seyarto**  
Senator, 32<sup>nd</sup> District



**Jeff Gonzalez**  
Assemblymember, 36<sup>th</sup> District



**Josh Hoover**  
Assemblymember, 7<sup>th</sup> District



**Alexandra Macedo**  
Assemblymember, 33<sup>rd</sup> District



**Kate Sanchez**  
Assemblymember, 71<sup>st</sup> District