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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

June 17, 2019

The Honorable Senator Anthony Portantino  
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
State Capitol, Room 5064  
Sacramento, CA 95814

***RE: AB 585 (Limon) Public Lands: Oil, Gas, and Mineral Leases - SUPPORT***

Dear Senator Portantino:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our support for AB 585 (Limon), which would authorize the State Lands Commission (Commission), when considering the approval of an assignment, transfer, or sublet of an oil and gas lease, to consider whether a proposed assignee is likely to comply with the provisions of the assigned, transferred, or sublet lease for the duration of the lease term. Additionally the bill will require a lessee, assignee, transferee, sublessee, or operator to submit to the commission, in writing, a notarized affidavit of liability for the decommissioning of production facilities and related infrastructure under the jurisdiction of the commission within six months after the date on which a lease terminates or expires, and require the lessee, assignee, transferee, sublessee, or operator to also covenant in the notarized affidavit, to commence the process of decommissioning the production facilities and related infrastructure within one year after the date on which the lease terminates or expires.

The Commission has not issued a new offshore oil development lease in nearly 50 years, but many of the leases issued before then are still in effect. AB 585 (Limon) will strengthen existing law to reduce or eliminate the State's future financial liability for decommissioning oil and gas infrastructure and ensure that all lessees fulfill the contractual decommissioning obligations on their leases.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2019 Legislative Platform that includes the Oil and Gas Infrastructure Safety and Compliance Legislative Plank, which specifically states that the County will support legislation to strengthen rules set forth by, and enforcement capabilities of, the State Lands Commission to require timely and proper abandonment of oil and gas facilities.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support AB 585 (Limon). If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or [dbozanich@countyofsb.org](mailto:dbozanich@countyofsb.org).

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg  
*Governmental Advocates, Inc.*

cc: The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, Author  
Members, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Ashley Ames, Consultant, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Todd Moffitt, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus  
The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District  
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors  
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors