



August 26, 2024

The Honorable Lori Wilson, Chair  
Assembly Transportation Committee  
1020 N Street, Suite 112  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Assembly Bill 1296: Bar pilots: regulation of vessels - Oppose**

Dear Chair Wilson and members of the Committee:

The undersigned health and medical organizations write in opposition to Assembly Bill 1296 (AB 1296, Grayson). AB 1296 would provide for exemptions and delayed implementation of an important public health program related to Commercial Harbor Craft (CHC).

Californians face the most difficult air pollution challenges in the United States, with six of the ten most polluted cities in the United States and 98 percent of Californians living in communities with unhealthy air pollution. Breathing air pollution can contribute to a wide range of health emergencies, including asthma attacks, heart attacks and stroke, lung cancer and premature death. These health emergencies are often concentrated in communities of color and lower-income communities nearest major sources of diesel exhaust, including from harbor craft.

AB 1296 would delay requirements for San Francisco Bay pilot CHCs established under California Air Resources Board regulation adopted in 2021 following years of public process with significant involvement by industry, CHC operators and other stakeholders. AB 1296 would significantly extend regulatory timelines, potentially for decades. Compliance extensions and many other provisions allowing CARB to adjust implementation schedules for safety, technology readiness and other factors are already included in the CHC regulation, but this legislation would limit the agency's discretion to implement this critical clean air rule.

The CHC rule is critical for attainment of federal air quality standards, reducing exposure to smog-forming emissions, and carcinogenic diesel exhaust on a phased and practical schedule with many flexibilities incorporated into the rule. For these reasons, our organizations oppose AB 1296. Please contact Will Barrett at [William.Barrett@Lung.org](mailto:William.Barrett@Lung.org) for additional information.

Thank you,

Will Barrett, Senior Director, Nationwide Clean Air Advocacy  
**American Lung Association**

Joel Ervice, Associate Director  
**Regional Asthma Management & Prevention (RAMP)**

Robert M. Gould, MD, President  
**San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility**