

[Put the date and your return address here]

Governor Gavin Newsom

1303 10th Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

I write to you as an elder woman concerned about future generations. I very much hope you will listen to this voice. I am a long-time advocate for environmental causes, and have voted in California for many years.

For decades, California’s oil industry has drilled in the center of human communities, including backyards, school campuses and parks. Over five million Californians live within a mile of one or more active oil wells. **Our children and our grandchildren** are exposed to carcinogenic chemicals, asthma attack-inducing emissions, and the threat of catastrophic industrial accidents.

And now, as we face the crisis posed by COVID-19, a study from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health shows that a small increase in exposure fine particulate matter leads to a **large increase in the COVID-19 death rate** (<https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/covid-pm>).

On behalf of my grandchildren and yours, and all the children coming in future generations, PLEASE use your authority to phase out oil production in exposed communities by

* creating a **2,500-foot health-and-safety buffer zone** between fossil-fuel infrastructure and homes, schools and other sensitive sites
* **denying all permits (and rescinding the 24 that were recently granted) for new fracking projects** until the rule-making process now in place is completed in 2021
* supporting further **regulation and restriction of fossil fuel production** in California beyond 2021.

I urge you to **phase out oil production in exposed communities** by creating a 2,500-foot health-and-safety buffer zone between fossil-fuel infrastructure and homes, schools and other sensitive sites such as hospitals. California has a reputation as a climate leader, yet has never established statewide setbacks for oil drilling—even Dallas, Texas has 1,500 foot setbacks. These setbacks are long overdue as extraction efforts become more extreme, using techniques such as acidizing and other chemicals which are injected at high pressure. This pollutes the air and the water supply in these communities, harming our children and grandchildren.

Furthermore, the fossil fuel industry has now requested at least 280 new hydraulic fracking permits.

Fracking poses serious risks, including air pollution, water contamination and earthquakes. In addition, fracking is a serious financial risk, being used by equity venture firms to endanger our public pension plans (<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/01/opinion/the-next-financial-crisis-lurks-underground.html>). **Please put a hold on this risk to our financial health and our grandchildren’s health. Do not grant any more permits until the rulemaking process is complete in 2021, and revoke the ones you have already granted.**

It really is time for us to come to our senses, and make good decisions for the future of our generation and generations to come We must not make bad decisions that are the result of lobbying to prop up the fossil fuel industry. **We must take responsibility for the coming generations.**

I thank you, and our children and grandchildren thank you for your support.

Sincerely,