



September 16, 2026

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 954 (Blakespear) – California Environmental Quality Act: advanced manufacturing facilities: exemption– REQUEST SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

We are writing to you as leaders of national environmental organizations to respectfully request your signature on SB 954 by Senator Blakespear. The bill addresses the serious risks to environmental and public health protections enacted through last year's [SB 131](#), the Public Resources trailer bill, and takes important steps toward fulfilling the legislature's commitment to fixing SB 131's most harmful provisions.

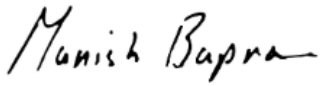
SB 954 is essential to protect California's communities and our environment from industrial pollution. It has been crafted by consensus through discussions with housing groups, labor groups, local governments, air districts, and other stakeholders, resulting in a workable exemption that carefully balances public protections with business interests.

SB 954 narrows the "advanced manufacturing" exemption in a balanced way that safeguards California's workers, communities, and environment while preserving a practical path for eligible projects. By upholding California's natural beauty and strong community health protections, the state can continue to grow its economy and support responsible manufacturing.

As the federal government takes a bulldozer to environmental, health and climate protections, California must continue to lead and show the world that a strong economy depends on a clean environment. SB 954 reflects the needs of the business community for further economic development while limiting CEQA exemptions for truly polluting projects.

Thank you for considering our views. If you have questions or need more information, please reach out to Victoria Rome at NRDC (vrome@nrdc.org).

Sincerely,



Manish Bapna
Natural Resources Defense
Council (NRDC)



Abbie Dillen
Earthjustice



Wendy Wendlandt
Environment America



Pete Maysmith
League of Conservation
Voters



Loren Blackford
Sierra Club