



September 28, 2015

Governor Jerry Brown
State Capitol, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1461 (Gonzalez, Alejo, McCarty) – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), which has 2.4 million members and activists, more than 380,000 of whom are Californians, we respectfully request your signature on AB 1461 by Assembly Members Gonzalez, Alejo and McCarty, the *California New Motor Voter Act*. California leads the world in our policies to combat climate chaos and protect our environment and public health. Our world class policies depend on a strong and involved electorate. AB 1461 will increase access to voting by addressing disparities in voter registration.

Too often, communities that bear the brunt of pollution also struggle with restrictions on voting rights. AB 1461 removes barriers to voter registration, which is one important step toward ensuring that all people are able to raise their voices in support of climate action, clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment for themselves and their children.

In 2012, California ranked 38th in voter registration, with more than 6.6 million eligible, but unregistered voters who are predominantly Latino, African American and Asian-Pacific Islander. Sixty percent of unregistered voters are Latino. This disparity in voter registration leads to a disparity in the allocation of election resources. State and county governments expend resources informing registered voters about voting and elections through sample ballots and voter information guides. Additionally, registered voters often receive outreach from election campaigns or nonpartisan GOTV drives. Registering a citizen to vote not only allows them to exercise their right to vote, but it means public and private resources are mobilized effectively.

We should make every effort to facilitate the participation of all citizens in our democracy. In recent years, modern technology has transformed voter registration and voting practices. We have the technology to register more voters in a more efficient manner. AB 1461 will use existing technology to make voter registration more convenient, efficient and accessible. We respectfully request your signature on this important bill to give more Californians a voice.

Sincerely,

Ann Notthoff
California Director

Victoria Rome
California Legislative Director

CC: Assembly Members Gonzalez, Alejo and McCarty