

# STATE POLICIES ARE CRIPPLING KERN COUNTY:

## *What Others are Saying*



"The County of Kern is an organization grounded in ideas, energy and innovation, and we are a driving force in California, the world's fifth largest economy. We are destined for a bright future, but it is a road not without challenges..."

"The Newsom Administration's actions threaten tens of thousands of jobs in our community, along with hundreds of millions in local tax revenue the County relies on to fund critical services for our residents, particularly public safety services provided by the Sheriff and Fire departments."

"The State of California is failing to implement smart water supply policies that support our local farmers who are feeding the world. This means supporting and advocating development of state policies on innovative water reuse, banking, surface storage, water capture and conjunctive use."

**-Kern County Board of Supervisors Chairman, Zack Scrivner, December 2, 2021**

"This announcement, steeped in politics rather than facts and science, will bring about the loss of tens of thousands of good, middle-class, blue-collar jobs and double the cost of gasoline and diesel, adding more weight to the backs of already struggling California families."

**- Robbie Hunter, President, State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, April 23, 2021**



"Right now, we are fighting to keep these high-paying job opportunities provided by the industry here, as well as the crucial tax revenue used to fund essential quality of life services such as law enforcement and other vital public safety services that our residents expect, and demand."

**- Ryan Alsop, Kern County Chief Administrative Officer, Bakersfield Californian, January 10, 2022**

"...ensure that communities impacted by the transition also receive funding to replace any fossil fuel tax base and maintain vital public services."

**- Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment, Bakersfield Californian, January 10, 2022**

"Every student, every firefighter and every resident of Kern County will be hurt by the governor's political announcement today. We will work to oppose this effort for our membership, their families, our schools and our future."

- John Spaulding, Executive Secretary, Building and Construction Trades Council for Kern, Inyo, and Mono Counties April 23, 2021



"Workers will experience changes unequally; some good jobs will disappear, and, without policy intervention, they could be replaced by low-wage jobs. This outcome has implications not only for the broader economy, but also for the climate policies themselves."

- CA Workforce Development Board: Putting California on the High Road, A Jobs and Climate Action Plan for 2030, June 2020

"Facing a 6.4 percent unemployment rate, Kern County's poverty level currently sits at 22.6 percent. As the center of energy production for California, producing 80 percent of the oil and 46 percent of gas exploration and production in the state, more than 14,000 jobs in the county are directly tied to the industry..."

"Although we share the same mission to uplift those that are often underrepresented, the initiative proposed by the State of California is a blanketed effort that further impacts that families that are dependent on these jobs for upward mobility. For this reason, I highly urge policymakers to take into consider existing communities and its fundamental ecosystem."

- Senator Melissa Hurtado, California Senate District 14, January 14, 2020

"This is a fiscal imbalance that has to be resolved before you start talking about a just transition..."

"We are looking at the difference between \$1.5m a year and \$80m a year. Until that is resolved, the idea of banning fossil fuel extraction does not seem realistic."

- Lorelei Oviatt, Director, Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department, March 8, 2021

"Roughly one in seven workers in Kern are employed by the industry or tied to it. A county analysis done last year found that the oil and gas industry funded the county to the tune of almost \$200m a year. Roughly half of that, \$103m, went to Kern County schools."

-The Guardian, March 12, 2021

"California's reliance on foreign oil has increased exponentially over the last three decades. It is important to consider the true costs, including human rights, environmental standards, marine-related emissions, lost wages and tax revenue, of favoring imports over local sources. Prioritizing local production and lessening our dependence on foreign oil imports should be of the highest priority for our state's citizens and policymakers."

-Richard Chapman, Kern Economic Development Corporation President & CEO, August 12, 2021

"It simply makes no sense to replace oil produced in California – which has the strictest environmental standards in the world – with oil extracted from places where regulation is lax or non-existent, while putting thousands of our hard-working neighbors out of work in the process."

- California Senate Majority Leader, Bob Hertzberg, April 13, 2021

"Our local communities rely on affordable oil and gas. [Governor Newsom's fracking ban] raises costs for frontline agriculture workers who worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic. We believe in a sustainable green future, but without a specific, just transition the ban is catastrophic to our region."

- Central Valley Latino Mayors and Elected Officials, April 23, 2021



"I am disappointed in Governor Newsom's executive order today to ban fracking and phase out oil production in the Golden State. Thousands of Central Valley families rely heavily on these good-paying jobs."

- Assemblymember Jim Cooper, April 23, 2021

"We need a managed, measured, multi-decade plan, with a clear signal that we are phasing things out..."

"The state should be the ones to say we are phasing it out in California and the state should be the ones to make sure the transition is done as equitably, humanely, and economically sustainable as possible."

- Ethan Elkind, Director, Center for Law, Energy and the Environment at University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, March 8, 2021

"...the number of jobs that's being created that are long-term jobs (is) not anywhere comparable toward the oil and gas industry, and some of these other activities around renewable fuels and carbon capture potential."

- Marek Gootman, Brookings Institution, B3K Regional Economic Development Project, April 13, 2021

"...it is unlikely that the growth in green jobs would replace either the quantity or quality of oil and gas industry jobs, or the overall economic contribution lost through a phase-out of O&G production. Instead, such a ban would have a serious, regressive impact on career opportunities for industrial workers, particularly those without a college degree."

- Capitol Matrix Consulting: Would Green Jobs Offset Those Lost from a Phase-Out of Oil and Gas Production, October 2020



"CARB's scoping plan process will be informed by cross-sector collaboration and public input focusing on benefits in disadvantaged communities, opportunities for job creation and economic growth as we achieve carbon neutrality."

- Office of Governor Newsom, April 23, 2021

"The reality is that there are real costs and job loss, particularly in the Central Valley, due to Gavin Newsom's decisions today. The responsible thing to do right now is to ensure we have sound energy policy that will provide an affordable, reliable, and sustainable path forward for everyone. Newsom is increasing costs by pushing more burdensome regulations at a time of great difficulty for many Californians."

-State Assemblyman Vince Fong, California Assembly District 34, April 23, 2021

"The governor should protect quality careers and vital tax funding while ensuring Californians have access to affordable and reliable energy."

- State Senator Shannon Grove, California Senate District 16, July 9, 2021

"Our climate change policies and goals have not been working; instead, they have created inequities in our most vulnerable communities."

- Senator Melissa Hurtado, California Senate District 14, The Guardian, March 12, 2021