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June 6, 2019

Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH
Director and State Public Health Officer
California Department of Public Health
1615 Capitol Avenue
PO Box 997377, MS 0500
Sacramento, California 95899-7377

Re: AB 836 (Wicks): Wildfire Smoke Clean Air Centers for Vulnerable Populations Incentive Program

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Board meeting on June 6, 2019 to take a Support recommendation on AB 836 (Wicks), a bill that would establish the Wildfire Smoke Clean Air Centers for Vulnerable Populations Incentive Program, to be administered by the State Air Resources Board, to provide funding through a grant program to retrofit ventilation systems to create a network of clean air centers in order to mitigate the adverse public health impacts due to wildfires and other smoke events, as specified. The bill would specify that moneys for the program would be available upon appropriation.

The California Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Lung Association in California, and others in support highlight that smoke from California's recent wildfires caused significant health impacts to vulnerable populations—such as children, the elderly, and those with existing respiratory problems—across the state. The supporters state that this bill will address the need to provide clean air spaces to California's vulnerable populations. For these reasons, CCLHO recommends a Support position on AB 836.

CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Health Services (now California Department of Public Health), other departments, boards, commissions, and officials of federal, state and local agencies, the Legislature and other organizations on all matters affecting health. CCLHO membership consists of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions.

Should you have any questions, please contact me by email at roidham@placer.ca.gov or by phone at (530) 745-3121. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Oldham, MD, MSHA
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers