

# SAVE OUR JOBS

## STOP the OIL TAX

Contact: Scott Macdonald  
(310) 996-2671

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **COMMUNITY LEADERS: AB 656 AIMS AT WRONG TARGET Proposed Tax on Oil Production Puts Local Job Training, Good-Paying Careers at Risk**

Los Angeles – The Save Our Jobs Coalition - representing workers whose jobs are threatened by the new tax – joined local opponents today in declaring that Assemblyman Alberto Torrico is aiming at the wrong target with AB 656, his proposed 12.5 percent tax on California oil production. Local community leaders pointed out that the measure will not solve the state's higher education funding problems as promised, but will instead jeopardize job training opportunities and good-paying jobs for South Bay residents.

“The oil companies in this area are active participants in local job-training and placement programs aimed at out-of-school and transitioning foster care youth as well as dislocated workers and disadvantaged adults,” said Richard Love, publisher of the Long Beach Times Newspaper.

“It's not the oil companies who are to blame for our education challenges, in fact they're a part of the solution in this community,” Love continued. “It's the state legislature and its \$20 billion annual budget deficits that have placed higher education at risk. Instead of raising taxes on California employers Mr. Torrico might want to get to work on establishing more responsible spending priorities in Sacramento.”

“Many families in this area live below the poverty line, many of our kids don't graduate from high school and more than half of them never make it to college,” said Sandy Cajas, president of the Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, which represents Latino-owned businesses throughout the Southland. “The jobs and job training the oil companies provide is a lot more relevant to our community than a new \$2 billion tax that will raise our gas prices and may make those jobs harder to come by.

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“The refineries in our community also offer scholarship programs for our students, and job training for returning veterans,” Cajas observed. “In these tough economic times when less and less of that kind of support is available, the last thing we should be doing is singling their industry out for higher taxes.”

A recent study of a similar severance tax proposal found that the tax would discourage in-state oil production, leading to the loss of almost 10,000 jobs, higher gas prices, increased dependence on imported oil and a reduction in local property tax revenues amounting to millions of dollars.

The Save Our Jobs coalition believes that rather than pursue job-killing legislation that will only prolong our state’s financial troubles and exacerbate its record-high unemployment rate, lawmakers should focus on job creation that will encourage the stable, prosperity-based recovery California so desperately needs.

More information is available at [www.SaveOurJobs.org](http://www.SaveOurJobs.org).

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