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Oil Industry Wins a Skirmish, But Not the War

SACRAMENTO –Governor Jerry Brown, Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de Leon and Speaker Toni Atkins announced late this afternoon that the portion of Senate Bill 350 that directly addresses reducing oil consumption in the transportation sector by 2030 would be removed from the bill.

Still remaining in the bill, which is expected to come to a floor vote in the Assembly tomorrow, are commitments to increase the amount of electricity produced by renewable energy to 50 percent by 2030 and to increase energy efficiency in all buildings in the state by 50 percent by 2030.

Kathryn Phillips, director of Sierra Club California issued the following statement:

"The oil industry declared war on humanity more than a decade ago when it led efforts to deny climate change. This year, they have spent untold dollars to try to defeat a reasonable goal to reduce California's dependence on oil in the transportation sector and continue our transition to cleaner fuels and more choice in travel.

"It's unfortunate that the oil companies prevailed this year by relying on lies and deception, stirring fear that the oil portion of SB 350 would make it impossible for Californians to thrive.

"What we have all learned from this experience is how ruthless the oil companies are. They will always put profits ahead of truth and public health.

"Senate President Pro Tem de Leon has shown great courage in challenging the oil industry's hold on the state and the state of the environment. And now, as Governor Brown has expressed his commitment to fight even harder to reduce our dependence on oil through other avenues, including regulatory avenues, I feel more certain than ever that the oil industry won this skirmish, but they won't win the war.

"And the rest of SB 350 remains intact and will move California forward on clean electricity and energy efficiency."

Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of the 13 Sierra Club chapters in California, representing more than 380,000 members and supporters statewide.

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