

Supporters of AB 3214 (Limon)



May 6, 2020

The Honorable Laura Friedman, Chair
Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 3214 (Limón) - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Friedman,

We write in support of AB 3214 (Limón), a bill adjusting current criminal penalties to account for inflation, and giving courts the flexibility to impose a criminal penalty of up to \$10,000 per gallon if the violator knowingly or reasonably should have known that their actions would lead to an oil spill into state waters.

On May 19, 2015 a highly-pressurized pipeline used to transport oil ruptured on shore in Santa Barbara County, releasing over 140,000 gallons of oil. As the largest spill in over 25 years, it severely damaged the coastal ecosystem and local economy.

On September 7, 2018, a Santa Barbara County jury returned a verdict finding Plains All American Pipeline guilty of a felony for failing to properly maintain its dangerous, highly-pressurized pipeline, which led to the discharge of crude oil. Despite the prosecution team asking for over a \$1 billion in criminal penalties, the company escaped with a penalty of a little over \$3 million.

Without a substantial deterrent, companies are incentivized to cut corners, putting our environment at risk. Furthermore, cases that rise to this level of criminal prosecution are rare and typically exclude mistakes or accidents.

AB 3214 makes it clear that there are real consequences for bad actions. This bill is essential in holding oil companies accountable. We urge your 'aye' vote on AB 3214 when it comes before you in committee.

Sincerely,

Mike Lynes
Policy Director
Audubon California

Marcela Gutiérrez-Graudiņš
Founder and Director
Azul

Linda Krop
Chief Counsel
Environmental Defense Center

Melissa Romero
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Santa Barbara Channelkeeper

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Get Oil Out!

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