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STANDING COMMITTEE  
SENATE RULES  
CHAIR

## SENATOR KEVIN DE LEÓN

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

November 15, 2017

Dr. William A. Burke, Chairman  
South Coast Air Quality Management  
District Governing Board  
21865 Copley Drive  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

**RE: SCAQMD Proposed Rule 1410**

Dear Chairman Burke:

I write to convey my support for the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD's) proposed rule (Rule 1410) banning the use of modified hydrofluoric acid (MHF).

MHF, if accidentally released, will cause a dense, ground-hugging cloud, which can travel up to 15 miles in sufficient concentration to cause death or irreparable injury to those who are in its path, putting millions of Southern California residents at risk.

The Valero refinery in Wilmington uses MHF, as does the Torrance Refinery, which have both experienced repeated safety issues, including explosions, chemical releases and fires in the last several years. The residents of Torrance and the surrounding communities have become alarmed by the potential for accidental release of MHF leading to a catastrophe in their residential neighborhoods and business areas.

I urge the SCAQMD to complete the rulemaking process and to ban the use of MHF. Such action would further the District's progress toward improving protections for refinery workers, surrounding neighborhoods and the environment.

Thank you for undertaking this important rulemaking process. If you would like to discuss this issue further, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin de León".

**KEVIN DE LEÓN**  
President pro Tempore  
Twenty-Fourth Senate District