



Dear Governor Newsom,

The undersigned organizations below write in opposition to [SB 842 \(Bradford\)](#), a bill that was amended days before the end of session and taken up in the late hours of the last night to undermine your first-in-the-nation price gouging law.

At the beginning of 2023, you and the California Legislature made history by passing the Price Gouging Penalty (SB X1-2), a landmark bill to hold the oil industry accountable for raising gasoline prices for Californians amid record profits. Thanks to your leadership, the bill was passed and signed, marking a historic victory for everyday Californians over corporate greed.

SB 842 would undermine the California Energy Commission's ability to stop refinery shutdowns by requiring additional unnecessary consultation with industry stakeholders and the Department of Industrial Relations. The bill, which was initially a homelessness initiative, was gutted and amended at the last minute, and as a result was able to slip by under that radar with only the Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA) listed in support.

We urge you to not allow this 11th hour attack from Big Oil to upend California's Price Gouging Penalty. Gasoline prices in California are currently \$1.43 more than US gasoline prices, and new state reporting shows refinery margins have doubled since January to be \$1.20 per gallon. Californians continue to suffer while the oil industry rakes in profits. In order for the Price Gouging Penalty to hold the oil industry accountable as promised, your regulators need to have freedom from restriction as they combat increasing gasoline prices.

On behalf of Californians struggling at the pump, we request that you veto SB 842 (Bradford) so the state may continue to hold the oil industry accountable for price gouging Californians. Please do not let WSPA undermine your landmark legislation and historic leadership on transparency and combating climate change.

Sincerely,

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