**\*\*\*PRINT ON LETTERHEAD\*\*\***

[RETURN ADDRESS IF NOT INCLUDED ON YOUR LETTERHEAD]

[DATE]

RE: SB 44 (Jackson) Coastal Oil Well Cleanup and Remediation Act – SUPPORT

Honorable California Legislators:

I am writing on behalf of [ORGANIZATION NAME] in **support of Senate Bill 44** (Jackson), the Coastal Oil Well Cleanup and Remediation Act. [OUR ORGANIZATION REPRESENTS …].

In 2016, the California State Lands Commission identified 198 abandoned oil wells located off the Santa Barbara coast. Many of the abandoned wells may be leaking oil that pollutes our beautiful beaches, threatens public health, jeopardizes wildlife health and habitats, and negatively impacts our beach-based economy. Most of these legacy wells are located along Summerland and Ellwood beaches in Santa Barbara County, which are heavily used and enjoyed by the public.

SB 44, the Coastal Oil Well Cleanup and Remediation Act, would require the California State Lands Commission and the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources to develop a program that prioritize legacy well remediation efforts and would use current standards to plug old oil wells that were abandoned in the 1940s by companies that had gone out of business and now cease to exist. The program would conduct a full in-depth study of oil seepage in coastal waters to determine natural versus anthropogenic seepage, seepage rates, and develop a priority list for remediating the legacy oil wells.

The history of legacy oil wells is entrenched into the Santa Barbara community and with proper regulatory management and support from the California Governor and Legislators, we will be able to minimize public health impacts.  [ORGANIZATION NAME] urges you to support SB 44 to protect California’s ocean heritage including the beaches and the people, businesses and wildlife that depend on healthy coastal habitat.

Sincerely,

[YOUR FULL NAME]

[YOUR TITLE]