



September 28th, 2015

Honorable Edmund G. Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: AB 1461 (Gonzalez) California New Motor Voter Program – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Brown:

The California Environmental Justice Alliance and CEJA Action strongly supports AB 1461 (Gonzalez), to establish the California New Motor Voter Program for the purpose of increasing opportunities for voter registration by any person who is qualified to be a voter.

CEJA is a statewide coalition of community-based organizations that represent approximately 20,000 residents in low-income communities and communities of color highly impacted by pollution across California.

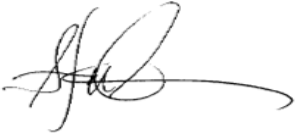
Voting is a fundamental right, yet citizens must opt-in to exercise that right. The burden of voter registration should be placed on the people who do not want to participate in our democracy. In 2012, California ranked 38th in voter registration. California has more than 6.6 million eligible, but unregistered voters who are predominantly Latino, African American and Asian-Pacific Islander.

This disparity in voter registration leads to a disparity in the allocation of election resources. State and county governments spend resources informing registered voters about voting and elections through sample ballots and voter information guides. Registering a citizen to vote not only allows them to exercise their right to vote, but it means public resources are mobilized to get them out to vote. California should make every effort to facilitate the participation of all citizens in our democracy.

In recent years, modern technology has transformed voter registration and voting practices. California now has online voter registration, is beginning to deploy new a statewide voter registration database, and there is a new technology upgrade at the DMV specifically for voter registration. We now have the technology in place to make voter registration more efficient.

We respectfully ask for your signature on AB 1461.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Strela Cervas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Strela Cervas, Co-Director
California Environmental Justice Alliance and CEJA Action