



For Immediate Release
July 26, 2006

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CA LABOR FED ENDORSES PROP 87 TO MAKE OIL COMPANIES PAY

Organization representing 2.1 million CA workers supports effort to reduce oil use, pollution

LOS ANGELES, CA – Following Monday’s announcement that California has set a U.S. record for gasoline prices and with the oil companies again posting multi-billion dollar profits, the California Labor Federation today endorsed Proposition 87. The Initiative would make oil companies finally pay their fair share for drilling in California and reduce the state’s dependence on oil by 25%.

“The choice is clear. Prop 87 is supported by people fighting to create cleaner air and new jobs for California. The opposition is bankrolled by the oil companies who don’t want to pay California their fair share,” said Art Pulaski, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation.

“California’s working families are hit the hardest when the oil companies rake in record profits without paying their fair share,” said Maria Elena Durazo, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO. “They pay in Alaska, Oklahoma and even Texas. Prop 87 finally makes oil companies pay drilling fees in California like they do in every other oil producing state. By reducing oil use, Prop 87 will reduce pollution that causes asthma, lung disease and cancer.”

The California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO represents 2.1 million people statewide, including law enforcement officers, firefighters, nurses, teachers, plumbers, truck drivers, ironworkers, electrical workers and longshoremen.

Prop 87 is a \$4 billion effort to reduce California’s dependence on oil by 25% over the next 10 years. Prop 87 will be solely funded by oil drilling fees paid by the oil companies that drill in California. Prop 87 will not raise gas prices. The California Attorney General has confirmed Prop 87 makes it illegal for oil companies to raise gas prices to pass the fee on to consumers. The U.S. Supreme Court has already ruled states can prohibit oil companies from passing drilling fees on to consumers.

Prop 87 would support consumer rebates to buy alternative fuel vehicles; incentives for increased use of wind, solar and other renewable energies; assistance to upgrade public vehicle fleets (school bus, mass transit, etc.); university research; alternative fuel infrastructure (filling stations, etc.) and other practical ways to immediately reduce California’s use of gasoline and diesel and increase the use of cleaner, cheaper fuels.

The nation’s major oil companies began releasing their quarterly profit statements today.

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Yes on 87, Californians for Clean Alternative Energy, a coalition of consumer advocates, public health and environmental organizations, scientists and business leaders.

Major funding by Steve Bing and Vinod Khosla.

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