

## SB 432 - Climate Crimes Accountability Act - Favorable

When presented with the facts of climate change, these companies, these people, weighed the consequences to themselves, the planet, and their *children*, and chose their shareholders. They had the opportunity of a lifetime to present their findings to the world and become a champion of sustainability, but because that was “too risky,” they chose to sell their children’s future for a few billion dollars. Not only did they damn their own children, but yours, too. When you were a child, how often did you have to worry about air quality before you went to school? These are not far-off, future problems; these are real, present dangers. Our air is toxic, our water is polluted, and large portions of the earth are set to become uninhabitable in our lifetime. These companies have *poisoned* the American people, along with the entire world. They lied to the American public in service of their own short term profit, knowing full well that it would be their children rather than them that would suffer the consequences of their greed.

The planet I live on may become uninhabitable during my lifetime as a result of decisions I was given no say in. My future, and the futures of everyone in my generation and the next, were sacrificed before we were even born so that a few businessmen could make extra money for themselves and their shareholders.

Think about your own children: what would you do to protect them? What would you give to ensure their future? These companies have committed a crime not just against the American people, but against the entire world. For decades, it has been allowed to go unpunished, and make no mistake, it’s still happening: they’re still pouring millions into their lies, and billions into the campaigns of legislators who will ensure that nothing will be done about this. I’m willing to bet that corporations have taken a particular interest in this bill for that exact reason. They want you to prioritize their industry over your own children.

The time to act was 30 years ago, but we still have a chance to preserve our future. If we take action *now*, we can salvage our future and bring justice to the people who tried to harvest it. It’s a parent’s job to protect their children and a government’s job to protect its citizens, so DO IT.

I’m still a young man, but I have often thought about children of my own. The decision I’ve reached is that I want to be a father, but I refuse to have children only to saddle them with the responsibility of fixing a burning world. One way or another, I will not bring kids into a dying planet. So I implore you, for the sake of your generation, mine, and all the next, please take action before it’s too late.