

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my deep concern and disappointment regarding the recent discussions and decisions related to oil drilling in our county. The issues at hand are of paramount importance and demand our immediate attention, as they have far-reaching consequences for our community, particularly the indigenous Chumash people and vulnerable populations.

It is disheartening to witness what appears to be a disregard for the rights and well-being of the Chumash, who are the rightful owners of the land. We must honor their heritage and protect their sacred lands from any activities that may harm their cultural and environmental significance.

Furthermore, the potential impact on low-income individuals and people of color cannot be understated. These communities are often disproportionately affected by environmental hazards and economic inequalities. We cannot allow oil companies to exploit our land and resources, putting the health and safety of these communities at risk.

The notion of granting "feasible" permission for drilling is deeply concerning. The term "feasible" should not be a vague or arbitrary standard when it comes to activities that could have detrimental consequences for our environment and public health. Public and environmental safety must always be the top priority, above personal interests or promises made during campaign seasons.

Supervisor Gorell's comment during the 2022 League of Women Voters/ Ventura Star forum raises important questions about the commitment to the well-being of our entire county. It is concerning to hear that as long as an issue does not directly impact District 2, it may not receive the attention and concern it deserves. We need representatives who prioritize the needs and concerns of all residents, regardless of their district.

The perception that the Board of Supervisors is not listening to the voices of the Chumash, people of color, those with lower socioeconomic status, and environmental activists is troubling. It has created an "us versus them" mentality that undermines

the trust and unity within our community. Long, Gorell, and Parvin should be accountable to the entire county, not just certain interests.

It is disheartening to hear that financial interests seem to outweigh the concerns for the environment and the welfare of our community members. Our county deserves leadership that is committed to responsible and sustainable practices.

I urge the Board of Supervisors to reevaluate its stance on oil drilling and prioritize the protection of our environment, the rights of the Chumash people, and the well-being of all residents, especially those who are most vulnerable. Our county's future depends on making the right choices today.

Sincerely,

Patrissha Booker

Thousand Oaks