



December 15, 2011

The Honorable Mary Nichols
Chairman, California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Chairman Nichols:

We are writing to urge you to continue to support an aggressive Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS). Our state's small business owners understand that the clean economy is the way out of the recession, and they need our policymakers to remain committed to moving our economy forward through new innovation and technology.

California small businesses are doing all they can to outlast the conditions of today's economy and are being hit hard with rising fuel costs. In a recent poll conducted by Small Business Majority, 43% of small business owners said the rising cost of doing business – including fuel costs – is a top concern for their company. These hardworking employers know they need the right kind of help if they are going to thrive. That's why they believe immediate action is necessary to form bold policies that will prompt innovation, lower fuel costs, and in effect, stimulate small businesses and the economy. In fact, 80% of California small employers surveyed in another Small Business Majority poll agree that it's important to take action now to increase fuel efficiency in vehicles.

A strong LCFS standard will benefit our economy and reduce small businesses' vulnerability to volatile gas prices. Our state's job creators spend billions annually at the pump, and the majority of this money leaves the state. The LCFS will help California's economy by attracting new investments and jobs in the growing clean fuels industry. Many clean fuel sources are already being domestically sourced and produced, meaning more money is staying in California. The Air Resources Board (ARB) needs to ensure that this innovation continues, pumping even more dollars into the state's economy.

The LCFS is also an important step to continue a robust implementation of AB 32. In 2010, we released an economic analysis of California's landmark clean energy law and found that the increased investments, energy savings and innovation the law fosters will boost small businesses' bottom lines and expedite job creation.

Small businesses typically produce the jobs that lead to economic recovery. That is why it is important for ARB to take swift action and implement policies that will boost job creation and help small businesses thrive.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Arensmeyer".

John Arensmeyer
Founder and CEO, Small Business Majority

cc: Members, California Air Resources Board