

HEARST RANCHES

Est. 1865

April 7, 2014

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

RE: Support for Proposed Livestock Revisions to Truck and Bus Regulation

Dear Chair Nichols,

I am writing on behalf of the Hearst Corporation, which owns and manages over 155,000 acres of grazing land in San Luis Obispo and Monterey counties, to voice strong support for staff's proposed revisions to the Truck and Bus Regulation which would classify trucks that exclusively haul cattle as specialty farm vehicles. The proposed provisions will ensure beef cattle operations like ours will have access to trucks to move livestock by delaying retrofit and replacement requirements for dedicated livestock haulers until January 1, 2023.

Livestock haulers typically travel far fewer miles annually compared to other truckers but exceed the current rules' mileage threshold. The movement of cattle in California is generally seasonal, taking place in the spring and fall, and miles traveled by livestock haulers typically occur in rural areas. Unfortunately, California ranchers are already subject to a shortage of livestock haulers and depend on both in-state and out-of-state truck fleets to provide enough trucks to move livestock when it is necessary. It has become clear that the implementation of this rule has limited the amount of truckers who are willing to continue to operate their vehicles in California and resulted in a lack of interest by many out-of-state haulers to operate in California.

Furthermore, many livestock haulers and ranchers with trucks are also not eligible for funding under the Carl Moyer Program or Proposition 1B. Many of these vehicles do not travel through the goods movement corridor as required by Proposition 1B and drive too few miles in mostly rural air districts and are not competitive for funding under the cost formula generated for the Carl Moyer Program.

It is unfortunate that some in the trucking industry have voiced opposition to staff's proposed livestock provisions. While it is important to provide regulatory relief for those who have already spent the money to install particulate matter filters, this cannot be done at the expense of the proposed livestock provision.

This provision will help alleviate economic strain currently felt by many ranchers and is good for the overall health of California's beef cattle industry. It is strongly supported by both ranchers and livestock haulers throughout the state – including many who have spent money to retrofit their trucks.

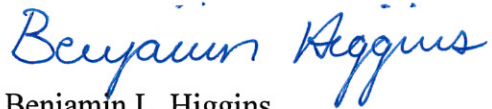
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Please do not delay in supporting this important a provision as proposed by staff at your April 24, 2014 hearing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Benjamin Higgins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "B" and "H".

Benjamin L. Higgins
Director of Agricultural Operations