



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS

April 18, 2014

The Honorable Board of Directors
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Members of the Board,

CASTO represents all school transportation professionals in California. We have been very supportive of the Truck and Bus Rules and have appreciated your consideration of our circumstances and concerns over the years.

As you know, like you, we are very concerned about the health and safety of school children in California. We recognize that the staff proposal before you recommends several changes to the Truck and Bus Rules that would relax requirements; however none of these proposed changes accrues to School Buses.

As you know, school transportation funding in California is the worst funded element of the Education Budget, and our funding has further declined during the economic downturn. In spite of increased State revenues recently, school transportation funding has been frozen at the lowest level we received during the budget cuts. In support of our enthusiasm to embrace the Truck and Bus Rules, and in light of the economic hardships we face, we respectfully request your consideration of allowing one amendment to the school bus rules:

Please allow school buses the same low mileage use exemption that you are currently considering for trucks: from 1,000 to 5,000 miles that will sunset in 2020. This will create equality within the programs, and give some relief for some school districts in the state.

Although there are many small school bus fleets that operate in very rural areas, we do not seek those similar exemptions. We could make the same arguments as small, rural truck fleets, but we believe that continuity for the purposes of application and enforcement are also desirable.

We also appreciate the efforts the California Air Resources Board has made to lobby for additional funds for the Lower Emission School Bus Program on a statewide basis to assist school districts with implementing the Truck and Bus Rules. We urge you to redouble your efforts so we can ensure that older buses are replaced and funding for particulate devices is available. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Rea, Government Relations Chairperson
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