

March 08, 2013

Mary Nichols, Chairperson California Air Resources Board 1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

## Re: Support for Transportation Coalition Proposal in Cap and Trade Investment Plan

Dear Chairperson Nichols:

The Met Sacramento High School is writing in support of the proposal submitted by the Transportation Coalition for Livable Communities to provide funding for the kinds of sustainable community improvements students need to get from home, to school, and within our neighborhoods.

The Met Sacramento High School is a dependent public charter high school located in downtown Sacramento. Students participate in internships throughout the urban core of Sacramento and rely on public transit, bicycle lanes, and walkable streets. Many students take classes at Sac City College and rely on transportation to get between our high school and college classes. In short, Metsters travel A LOT. Of the nearly 300 students at the Met, 100 bike to school and related internships in the community – less than a dozen are licenced drivers. We even created a student-run bicycle collective in its own room at school made possible in part by a state grant to make our school LEED and CHIPS certified for energy efficiency – now students have a place to fix their bikes and help each other. And our school itself is a more enjoyable and cool place to hang out.

Our school worked with the City and County of Sacramento in collaborating on innovative ways to make our school more energy efficiency -- and a grant program like the one proposed by the Transportation Coalition for Livable Communities could make our school safer to walk, bike, and take transit to.

If we want people to live, work and play in existing developed areas we need to make our infrastructure better around community schools and the parks and places that students to go.

As students who go to a school in an urban core, we enjoy being able to walk to parks, bike to coffeehouses, and take transit to our internships and community service activities – but we would like to be able to do this safely and enjoy the experience with the needed infrastructure to make our travels better and to improve other communities that aren't as fortunate as we are to have

The Transportation Coalition for Livable Communities has a proposal that would create local competitive grants under regional governments to encourage innovative ways of combining all aspects of a livable community: better bike facilities, smooth roads, frequent and predictable transit, clean technology infrastructure, rail improvements, streetscape enhancements, traffic calming, multi-use paths, underground utilities, and urban greening.

The Transportation Coalition's proposed program would encourage local governments to work together with other organizations like schools and parks to be more competitive when applying for grant money for integrated transportation and land use investments that meet regional greenhouse gas reduction goals.

The proposal would also allow local governments to be more innovative in working with schools in order to make walkable and bikeable communities a reality - and to better plan for community schools in community cores where much of California's future population is expected to live. Funding to support safe infrastructure, programs and plans at schools are far below the demand. We urge you to include the proposed program concept from the Transportation Coalition for Livable Communities. Sincerely Allen Young Principal STUDENTS OF THE MET SACRAMENTO HIGH SCHOOL Abolita Flores-Moss

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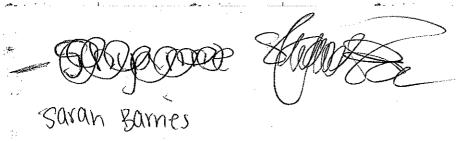
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