

CAPITOL OFFICE
State Capitol, Room 313
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900
TEL (916) 651-4010
FAX (916) 327-2433

DISTRICT OFFICES
1057 MacArthur Blvd., Suite 206
San Leandro, CA 94577
TEL (510) 577-2310
FAX (510) 577-2308

39155 Liberty St., Suite F-610
Fremont, CA 94538
TEL (510) 794-3900
FAX (510) 794-3940

California State Senate

SENATOR ELLEN M. CORBETT

MAJORITY LEADER

REPRESENTING ALAMEDA AND SANTA CLARA COUNTIES



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October 22, 2014

Ms. Mary D. Nichols, Chair
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposition to the Proposal to Weaken the Zero Emission Vehicle Mandate

Members of the Air Resources Board:

I would like to share my concerns with you regarding the latest attempt by automakers to undermine the advances we have made in California through the Zero Emission Vehicle ("ZEV") mandate. The ZEV mandate is absolutely critical to the success of Governor Brown's goal of delivering 1.5 million electric vehicles by 2025, as well as the clean vehicle goals of nine other states that have adopted California standards.

Air Resources Board staff has already found that the current proposal to weaken the ZEV mandate will lead to thousands fewer plug-in cars on the road. This is the time when we should be pushing for more and supporting the companies that are paving the way for others. Larger volume manufacturers could also use the current proposal to justify their request to revisit the entire ZEV mandate and to recommend changes that would allow them to ramp down battery electric and fuel cell programs in favor of plug-in hybrids. This would be a major step backwards and entirely inconsistent with California's proactive policies to combat climate change and develop the transportation system of the future.

We must hold the line on the ZEV mandate. If the mandate starts to crack, it will send the wrong message to other states and countries that look to California when implementing their own climate change policies. Given the quickening pace of information supporting the need to take bold action on climate change, weakening regulations that are supporting thousands of California jobs and driving clean vehicle innovation is the absolutely wrong direction to go.

I urge you to reject this proposal that would undermine the goal of ensuring 1.5 million electric vehicles on California's roads by 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ellen", enclosed within a circular blue ink stamp.

ELLEN M. CORBETT
Senate Majority Leader