California Air Resources Board Members,

My name is Francisco Lesaca. My wife and I own and operate Lesaca Landscape Company, Inc. in Bakersfield, CA. We have 12 full time employees, which we are proud to say have been with us on average for 15 years. Our landscape services include design, build and maintenance. My father and mother started the business in 1974. We hope to continue what they started.

I have a deep concern for the new proposed amendments to the small off-road engine regulations and the time in which you want to implement them. I understand the need to reduce our carbon footprint. And being a lifelong resident of the central valley, I understand how important our air quality is to us. But to do a complete ban by 2024 of all gas engines under 25 hp will create a financial hardship for me and many small businesses owners. Every piece of small equipment I have is under 25 hp. Which include mowers, blowers, chainsaws, edgers, string trimmers, plate compactors, aerators, pressure washers, power brooms, augers and concrete saws. We take care of our equipment so it will last us a long time. We try to 3-10 years life out of every piece of equipment. And we only buy professional equipment that we know is dependable and can handle the riggers of our work. It’s taken us years to find the right equipment that meets our standards. Now you are asking us to do the same thing with electric equipment in less than 3 years. This is a hard pill to swallow. Its not just the new equipment we will need to purchase. But the cost of setting up our shop, trucks and trailers with charging stations and even maybe solar panels. I don’t know where to begin!!!

I hope you can reconsider this timeline of 3 years and extend it to 10+ years. By then, maybe the battery technology will be more advanced. Also, with more time the cost of the equipment may be more comparable to our current gas-powered equipment. If anything, the added time will help us phase out our old gas power equipment and purchase the new battery equipment.

Best Regards,

Javier Lesaca

Lesaca Landscape Company

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