To: California Air Resources Board (CARB)

Date: Thursday, December 9, 2021 Board Meeting, 9:00 AM Pacific Time (Agenda #sore2021)

From: Roger & Marian Taylor, San Francisco Area residents

RE: Strong Opposition to CARB Banning RV Generators

We are writing to request CARB exempt generators installed on Recreation Vehicles (RVs) from its proposed regulations limiting the use portable generators of less than 25 HP. If you’re not experienced RVers, you need to understand: Generators in RVs are not often used, but are critical when needed; and the alternatives for generating the electrical energy occasionally needed from a generator cause more emissions and pollution than using generators.

We support regulations promoting clean air and a sustainable environment. We installed solar panels and storage batteries in our home and on both of our RVs and try to be energy efficient. For 14 years, we traveled with a 28 ft Airstream trailer and tow vehicle until early 2021 when we converted to a 19.5 ft fully outfitted Class B Mercedes Sprinter camper van. We carried a portable Honda generator for our Airstream trailer, and have the latest model, quiet, built-in Onan generator in our Sprinter camper van. We’ve traveled with our RVs around the United States and into Canada to visit family, for pleasure, and occasionally for Roger’s consulting work. We love the quiet, clean feeling that comes from camping in nature. The combination of solar panels, plugging into the campground’s shore power, and recharging batteries while driving generally gives our RV’s dual lithium house batteries enough power to support our needs. We ask the Board to consider the following facts regarding our use of a generator:

A. We only used our RV generators 5 times in 15 years. It was a critical emergency each time:

1. Avoiding Heat Stroke, Twice: once in the Arizona desert’s 112 degree heat, and once in a CA Gold Country’s 105 degree heat wave. Our RV became dangerously hot inside. We used the generator so our air conditioning could bring down the internal temperature to a level that was safe for occupancy.
2. Avoiding Freezing, Once: Camping at June Lake in the California mountains in the Fall, it was overcast and cold for days and our solar panels didn’t produce enough power to keep our batteries charged. It became dangerously cold. We used our generator so our lights and heater could keep us warm and safe.
3. Charging our Critically Low RV Batteries Due to Cloud Cover, Twice: Our batteries wore down after 3 days of heavy cloud cover made our solar panels ineffective. Our internal lights, refrigerator, heater, induction burner and other power needs could not be met without occasional generator use.

B. The alternative to using a generator is both less effective and more polluting:

1. Using the vehicle’s engine to recharge the batteries: Charging an RVs batteries by running the motor home’s or tow vehicle’s engine takes a long time, is very inefficient, takes a lot more fuel, and is more polluting than using a generator. Further, even fully charged RV batteries can’t run air conditioners.
2. Using the vehicle’s heater to warm up the RV: Running the motor home’s or tow vehicle’s engine to operate the RV cab’s heater is of no value in trying to heat up a travel trailer or 5th wheel; and a motor home’s cab heater is insufficient to warm an entire motor home’s interior. This is not only ineffective, it takes a lot more fuel and is more polluting that a generator.

C. Our RV is our 2nd Home. It should be treated no differently because it’s on wheels.

D. For full-time RVers, their RV is their only home. They, and we, should not be denied access to the power needed to live comfortably in their, and our, homes.

E. Finally, please don’t destroy one of the country’s remaining great inexpensive family experiences: enjoying nature up close from remote off-the-grid RV campsites.