

Health Network for Clean Air

A network of health organizations working to improve air quality in California



AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION®
of California

April 22, 2009

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger and Chairman Nichols,

We, the undersigned health care professionals, urge you to support the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) adoption of the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) regulation at its April, 2009 meeting. The LCFS will require development and deployment of clean alternative fuels and reverse the state's long dependence on polluting petroleum fuels such as conventional gasoline and diesel. Promoting clean, alternative fuels is a critical piece of the state's strategy to fight global warming and address the serious health impacts already set in motion by warming trends in California. Once adopted, the LCFS will provide an important model for the United States and the rest of the world by requiring fuel providers to reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions from transportation fuels, such as gasoline and diesel, by at least 10 percent by 2020.

Public health in California has suffered greatly from dependence on dirty petroleum fuels. Pollution from cars, trucks, buses and freight transportation sources is responsible for a large percentage of California's extreme air pollution problem that leads to illness and premature death. The California Air Resources Board has estimated that air pollution causes nearly 20,000 premature deaths, over 200,000 asthma attacks and thousands of hospitalizations for respiratory and cardiac illnesses annually. As health care professionals, we have seen these negative impacts of air pollution on our patients. We are particularly troubled by the effects of poor air quality on children, the elderly, individuals with asthma or other chronic respiratory conditions and other vulnerable populations in our communities. The LCFS is a vital strategy to address these serious public health impacts.

We believe that reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a vital clean air and public health strategy and urge you to support CARB's adoption of the Low Carbon Fuel Standard without delay.

Signed,

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