

California Air Resources Board
1001 T. St.
Sacramento, Ca 95812

Attn: Clerk of the Board re ZEV Technology Review

Dear Chairman Sawyer:


While I appreciate that CARB is fully engaged in studying the results of the Independent Expert 2007 Executive Summary Report, I feel it is very important to give my input as a California citizen concerned about automotive pollution, poor air quality, resulting health effects and climate change.

I am aware that CARB, at the behest of automakers and other special interests, changed the ZEV Mandate in 2003 which had the effect of halting further development of plug-in automotive technology. Automakers then promptly and obligingly proceeded to round up electric vehicles and destroy them. Fortunately, due to citizen activism, 1,000 of those electric vehicles were spared the crusher. Many more, however, were crushed. The most infuriating part of this spectacle is that if CARB had not withdrawn its electric vehicle support in the altered 2003 ZEV mandate, California could, by now have many thousands of zero emission vehicles in active service to help CARB do what it is "charged" to do: It is time to address California's air quality and automotive contribution to pollution levels and climate change in effective ways. In 2007 we are left with less than one hundred fuel cell cars making their occasional, million-dollar, meandering ways down the futuristic freeway to nowhere.

CARB must charge ahead with a new ZEV mandate which will require automakers to produce plug-in vehicles and make them available to an eager public. Californians are watching with dismay as gasoline prices rise, the climate becomes more unpredictable due to climate change and foreign wars are being fought to obtain oil in beleaguered countries.

As a person who has driven an all-electric RAV4 EV exclusively powered by the grid-connected solar system on my residential roof, I am well aware that the technology for plug-in cars exists now. This "old" battery technology has meant that I have been able to drive oil-free for six years with no battery degradation. I have been living this "futuristic" reality since 2001. I can only imagine what the future might hold if CARB should decide to give equal funding to the plug and work with the public and automakers to make the choice of plugging in available to California citizens. Despite some automaker rhetoric, battery technology, as my personal experience proves, works and will only get better if given a chance. Help Californians move into a brighter, cleaner 21st century today. Don't continue to fund futuristic fuel cell technology at the expense of other technologies that can work now.

Sincerely,


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