



American Jewish Committee

Advancing democracy, pluralism and mutual understanding

Mary Nichols, Chair
California Air Resources Board
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Tuesday March 25, 2008

Dear Chairwoman Nichols:

The Los Angeles Chapter of American Jewish Committee, a Jewish advocacy and diplomacy organization representing more than 175,000 members nationwide, opposes amendments to weaken the Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) requirement. The proposed amendments weaken our State's ability to end our dependence on oil which poses a threat to our national, environmental, and economic security.

Our petrodollars are spent in Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, countries who espouse dangerous and volatile ideologies. Our oil addiction subjects our economy to price fluctuations such as those caused by recent developments in Ecuador which accounts for 25% of California's foreign oil imports. Transportation fuels also contribute to 40% of greenhouse gas emissions in California, threatening our fragile environment.

California must take the lead reducing oil dependence, cutting greenhouse gas emissions, and protecting our economy from price shocks by ensuring that our fleet consists of fuel efficient and alternative fuel capable vehicles. These cars must also run on fuel with reduced carbon intensity, achieved through reducing petroleum in California's transportation fuels. The most promising way to reach this goal is to give consumers the choice to purchase ZEVs and "Enhanced" Advanced Technology Partial ZEVs (Enhanced AT PZEV), like the electric Tesla Roadster, the plug-in hybrid Chevrolet Volt, or hydrogen fueled vehicles.

Unfortunately, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) may reduce the number of ZEVs required of automakers by 90%, settling for only 2,500 from 2012-2014 by allowing the automakers to substitute this requirement with other zero or low emissions vehicles. We ask you to oppose this amendment. CARB should require the full 25,000 ZEVs that automakers had promised for 2012-2014. We should not trade one good technology for another - the State should create a separate requirement for plug-in hybrids that lets them replace the dirtiest vehicles in its fleet, rather than the cleanest ZEVs.

AJC supports more market choices for consumers, not fewer. Please join us by opposing amendments that weaken the ZEV requirement.

Respectfully,

Sherry A. Weinman
President

Seth Brysk
Executive Director

Eli Lipmen
Energy Security Program Director

ORIGINAL: Board Clerk
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Chair

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