



August 1, 2008

Ms. Mary D. Nichols, Chairman
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Chairman Nichols:

The Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) is writing to commend the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for the publication on July 25th of the Proposed 15-day Modifications to Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) program and to encourage CARB to finalize the ZEV program changes as quickly as possible.

The ZEV program is a critical component of the Northeast State air pollution control programs. Since the ZEV program, approximately 25% of new cars sold in our region are among the cleanest available on the market - so called partial zero emitting vehicles or "PZEVs." As you well know, these vehicles emit virtually no evaporative and tailpipe pollution. In addition, because of the ZEV requirements, electric and other advanced vehicles such as fuel cells have been placed in the Northeast states. Over the long term, we expect the ZEV program will be part of a transformation of the Northeast vehicle fleet to the most technically advanced, zero emitting vehicles.

The program changes proposed by CARB represent the next step in the evolution of the ZEV program. The Northeast states are eager to make a coordinated effort to follow the changes California has approved. We appreciate efforts made by CARB staff to incorporate Northeast comments into the recent ZEV program changes. And, we look forward to working with California as the program moves ahead. To that end, we urge CARB to move forward quickly in finalizing the program changes.

Very truly yours,

Richard Valentinetti
NESCAUM Chair

Cc: NESCAUM Directors