Steven Turner

## Black Business Association January 26, 2011

My name is Steven Taylor I am representing the Black business Association.

This regulation makes us very nervous.

For the first time, you are trying to force businesses to sell a particular product even if they don't want to sell it and there's no market for it. It involves spending hundreds of thousands of dollars in new infrastructure per location – hundreds of millions when you add all of them up.

We understand this would only apply to a certain type of business and only selected locations – for now. But who will be next?

There's also the matter of who will ultimately have to absorb those costs. You can't impose costs of this magnitude and contain them in a single sector. Sooner or later, we all pay.

That would be tough for everyone in this economy, but hardest on minority-owned businesses. Our members are small businesses, many are family owned. Many have already cut costs and jobs to the bone just to keep the doors open. Unemployment among African Americans is 19 percent – almost double the state average.

We don't object to people investing their own money, voluntarily, in the hydrogen fuel business. And we don't object to people buying hydrogen vehicles. It's been done before.

Governor Schwarzenegger had his Hydrogen Hummer – at his own expense. But not even his wealthy Hollywood friends followed his example, even with Arnold vigorously promoting his Hydrogen Highway.

Maybe it's time we left the Hydrogen Highway behind.

Conventional cars are getting cleaner, and alternative fuel vehicles are gaining in popularity and market share. There's no reason to mandate hundreds of millions in costs to support a limited number of vehicles which aren't even on the road yet.

Thank you.