

Jake Alarid

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Presentation to

California Air Resource Board

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Good Morning, my name is Jake Alarid, I am the Past National Commander of the American GI Forum and I am here today on behalf of the American GI Forum of California. I am wearing my veteran hat today because I am proud to be a veteran. I also own a small business.

You are proposing to require the installation of hydrogen fueling stations at existing business that do not currently sell hydrogen and some have no desire to sell it.

This proposal would require these businesses to spend millions of dollars to install the hydrogen fueling equipment, either out of their own pockets or from public funds.

The question is: Is there some analysis that shows a demand for hydrogen vehicles in the future? Are auto makers going to be required to manufacture and sell these vehicles? If these cars are manufactured, will they be affordable to the population middle class? Will the cost justify the demand or will the taxpayer have to subsidize the auto makers.

The American GI Forum of California is opposed to a proposal that would require the installation of hydrogen fueling stations at existing businesses. As a veteran advocate I don't see any realistic opportunities for job creation for our men and women who have worn the uniform and are now returning home from Harm's Way. As a small business man I would oppose the installation of such equipment in my business.

Our struggling economy needs a shot in the arm and the resources that would go to finance the proposed fueling stations would much better be used in repairing our infrastructures and creating jobs. We don't need to burden businesses to provide a service for a product that we don't have.

Thank you for your time and for allowing me to make this presentation