

Erick Verduzzo-Vega

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South Bay Latino Chamber of Commerce
California Air Resources Board
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Re: Clean Fuel Outlet Regulation

My name is Erick Verduzco-Vega and I'm President and CEO of the South Bay Latino Chamber of Commerce.

Our members are Hispanic-owned businesses, mostly small ones, who are interested in economic growth and job creation that will not only help our companies but help our community. And we want to do this in a healthy environment.

This regulation doesn't appear to do anything to advance those goals. And it doesn't make sense from a business perspective either.

You are asking refiners, who don't make hydrogen fuel or hydrogen-fueled vehicles, to spend billions of dollars on a delivery system for those products. But you are not mandating a quota for hydrogen cars automakers must sell or volumes of hydrogen fuel-makers must produce.

A more realistic business model would be for the automakers and hydrogen fuel producers to invest in the infrastructure to support their products. After all, they're the ones who stand to profit. But again, this should be voluntary, not government-mandated.

A good example is the development of the cell phone industry. When cell phones were developed the phone companies went out and leased land and built towers so they could provide the service to support their product. They did all this without government quotas and mandates and they've done pretty well.

There are people out there who are already offering fueling facilities for alternative-fuel vehicles. They believe in the market and if they are right about the future of these vehicles they will make some well-deserved profits. We applaud voluntary entrepreneurship and wish these businesses every success.

Meanwhile, though, we can't afford a regulation that will siphon millions out of the economy to force companies to engage in business ventures with no tangible return on investment for a very long time, if ever. This is not good for the environment, for businesses, for jobs, or for our communities.

The South Bay Latino Chamber of Commerce opposes this rule.