

Testimony before the California Air Resources Board, January 26, 2012

My name is Kevin Norton.

I am a member of the political team at IBEW Local 11 here in Los Angeles County.

I speak today on behalf of Local 11 in support of the proposed Advanced Clean Cars Program that you have before you today.

While I do not formally represent them, I would like to point out that the California State Association of Electrical Workers as well as 21 separate IBEW locals, including

- Locals 6, 9, my own Local 11, 40, 47, 100, 180, 234, 302, 332, 340, 413, 440, 441, 477, 551, 569, 617, 639, 684, 952 from all over the state of California

All have also endorsed this proposed clean air program.

Our reasons are not complicated.

First, we like clean air. We know that clean air is beneficial to our members' health and quality of life, and also clearly beneficial to the health of our regional and state economy.

It is clear that air pollution has been an enormous drag on California for many years.

- Not only is there an enormous direct cost from air pollution for those who suffer from asthma and other forms of lung disease
- There is enormous indirect costs from lost productivity and lost work days.
- I believe air pollution has an enormous discouraging effect on investment in Southern California, especially for high-tech, information industries who must attract a highly skilled work force that wants a high quality of life.

Second, we like good jobs - especially for members.

We like the economic and job opportunities that will be created by a program to accelerate the use of advanced electric transportation technologies in our communities and the good jobs created in designing and manufacturing such technologies.

But we especially appreciate the leading role this program has had and will have on encouraging the development of electric charging facilities throughout our communities.

We expect that those jobs will go to many of our members.

We also like the effect the electric vehicle program has on fostering a broader commitment to clean electric transportation in all its various forms –cars and trucks, rail transit and potentially even buses and trucks.

We see these things as a full employment program for electric workers. Can you blame us?

Thank you for your leadership over several decades, and for the leadership you will show today.

Keep up the good work.