



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Commission
on the Environment

January 25, 2012

California Air Resources Board
Post Office Box 2815
Sacramento, California 95812
Attn: Chairman Mary Nichols

RE: Support for ARB's Proposed Advanced Clean Cars Program – LEV III Amendments

Dear Chairman Nichols and Board Members,

As leaders in various faith organizations representing thousands of congregations, we urge you to pass the proposed Advanced Clean Cars (LEV III) standards. We understand that these standards are designed so that, by 2025, new cars will: emit 34 percent fewer carbon emissions and 75 percent fewer smog-forming emissions; and save an average of \$6,000 in fuel over the life of the car. The new standards will put our state on track so that, by 2050, 87% of the passenger cars on our roads will be powered by batteries or fuel cells. These Advanced Clean Cars Standards will protect public health, strengthen California's economy, and address climate change.

All faith traditions hold common principles of stewardship of Creation and reverence for life. To us, that means practical action on the following issues:

Protecting air quality and health: California has some of the worst pollution in the country, which contributes to incidents of respiratory illness, heart and lung disease and even premature death. Mobile sources, including cars, are major contributors to smog and other air toxins, such as particulate matter.

Working for a healthy economy: Clean Cars Standards will drive technology innovation, which will stimulate California's economy and spur job creation. The new standards will also increase the fuel efficiency of new vehicles, thus requiring less of a family's budget for gas.

Transitioning to a clean energy future: For too long, California and the U.S. have over-relied on dirty-burning fossil fuels, which is damaging human health and Earth's ecosystems. As people of faith, we are called to consider the effect on God's Creation and on the health of our neighbors, especially the most vulnerable among us who suffer most from air pollution and climate impacts. When we examine the moral implications of our energy choices we find that a rapid transition to clean energy is imperative.

Mitigating climate change: Already, we have seen the damaging effects of climate change on human populations, including severe weather events, food shortages, dangerous heat waves, advancing tropical

diseases, and unhealthy air quality. By curbing carbon pollution now and cleaning up our air we can avoid even worse climate change scenarios and protect human health and all of Creation.

The Advanced Clean Car Standards will address all these issues and make us all part of the solution by cleaning up the cars we drive.

We appreciate the ongoing efforts of the California Air Resources Board in making California, yet again, a leader in the transition to a clean energy economy and a protector of human health. Please support the proposed LEV-III amendments.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Canon Sally Bingham
Episcopal Diocese of California Commission on the Environment

Susan Stephenson, Executive Director
California Interfaith Power & Light

Betsy Reifsnider, Environmental Justice Director
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Stockton

Shakeel Syed, Executive Director
Islamic Shura Council of Southern California

Peter Laarman, Executive Director
Progressive Christians Uniting

Rev. Albert G. Cohen, Executive Director
Southern California Ecumenical Council

Bhawana Kamil, President
Muslim American Society-Bay Area

Rev. Earl W. Koteen, Consulting Minister for Climate Justice
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry California

Mark Carlson, Director
Lutheran Office of Public Policy

Margaret Henke and Sherri Loveland, Co-Chairs
Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment