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California State Senate

SENATOR
CONNIE M. LEYVA

TWENTIETH SENATE DISTRICT



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October 27, 2021

Liane M. Randolph, Chair
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Pollution from Trucking

Dear Chair Randolph:

We, the undersigned members of the California State Legislature, believe that more must be done to protect our communities from trucking pollution. Despite our current efforts through legislation and budget appropriations to incentivize an accelerated transition to zero emission vehicles, over 70% of Californians still, breathe unhealthy air. Heavy-duty trucks are major contributors to air pollution, even though they represent only a small portion of California's total on-road vehicle fleet. The good news is that the California Air Resources Board (CARB)'s rules and our budget allocations are helping to ensure that new vehicles on our roads are increasingly zero emission. We are additionally pleased that the SB 210 (Leyva, Chapter 298, Statutes of 2019) inspection program for heavy-duty vehicles will soon be underway. However, we need to do much more to turnover the many existing combustion trucks that would otherwise stay on our roads for decades.

The adopted Advanced Clean Trucks Regulation already requires manufacturers to sell increasing percentages of zero emission trucks in the California market. CARB must complete the proposed Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation as soon as possible to help accelerate the zero emission truck market in the early years and ensure an end for combustion truck sales in California. However, even with those efforts, a significant number of combustion trucks will still be operating on our roadways in 2045. Specifically, in 2045, the California fleet will still include one million combustion trucks out of the approximately 2.2 million total trucks on the road. Under SB 1 (Beall, Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017), those trucks may operate to the end of their useful lives. As such, CARB's current regulatory portfolio will not achieve the Governor's Executive Order (N-79-20) goal of 100% zero emission heavy duty trucks by 2045.

The Legislature and CARB must start developing a next generation portfolio of regulations and incentives that will help industry and small businesses, transition to zero emission trucks, and help make sure that freight facilities are fitted with zero emission infrastructure. Pursuant to SB 1, CARB must report to the Legislature by 2025 ways to further reduce freight pollution, taking into account the remaining useful lives of vehicles. We believe that CARB should use its discretion to accelerate work on this report and deliver a final report to the Legislature by the end of 2023. The report should include a framework for this new policy portfolio, including regulatory options to scrap combustion vehicles and replace them with zero emission vehicles. It should also note fiscal incentives that support accelerated vehicle turnover, including consideration of policies other jurisdictions have employed—such as differentiated registration fees—so that dirtier trucks pay more, as well as recommendations to the Legislature where CARB lacks sufficient authority.

We also believe that CARB should include commitments to move forward on these important goals in its State Implementation Plan. Every new combustion truck that is on the road will create additional pollution that will further burden our communities for years to come. While we recognize the role of the Legislature in appropriating funds, it is imperative that CARB start planning for and developing new regulations and incentive programs. Zero emission truck options across a range of classes and duty cycles are commercially available now and even more are coming. As the world’s major economies, transition to zero emissions vehicles, California’s fleets and communities must lead the way.

Thank you for your consideration. While we do not request a formal response to this letter, please feel free to reach out to our offices if you have any questions or require additional information.

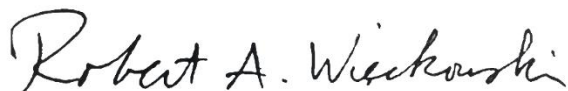
Sincerely,



CONNIE M. LEYVA
State Senator, 20th District



CRISTINA GARCIA
State Assemblymember, 58th District



BOB WIECKOWSKI
State Senator, 10th District



EDUARDO GARCIA
State Assemblymember, 56th District



BENJAMIN ALLEN
State Senator, 26th District



ELOISE GÓMEZ REYES
State Assemblymember, 47th District