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Assembly California Legislature



DAVID A. ALVAREZ
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, EIGHTIETH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIR, BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 3 ON
EDUCATION FINANCE
BUDGET
EDUCATION
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
INSURANCE
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE
JOINT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET

December 8, 2025

California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Alternatives to High Gasoline Prices

Chair Sanchez, Executive Officer Cliff and Board Members,

We write as Members of the California Legislature to encourage the Board to explore additional strategies to lower fuel prices. California remains the only state that prohibits the use of certain technologies that could help consumers access cleaner, more affordable fuel options. To that end, we respectfully urge CARB to authorize the sale and installation of any E85 conversion kit certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an EPA-Compliant Alternative Fuel Conversion System. If CARB believes it lacks authority to expedite these approvals—even temporarily—we request your position on the matter as soon as possible.

As you are well aware, Californians consistently pay more at the pump than drivers in other states. While our rigorous environmental regulations produce the cleanest gasoline in the nation, repeated price spikes have made fuel costs unmanageable for many. In October, Governor Newsom directed CARB to “accelerate studying how California could increase ethanol blending in gasoline,” citing its potential to lower costs while maintaining environmental protections. The Legislature unanimously supported this effort through AB 30 (Alvarez) and allocated \$2.3 million in this year’s budget to fund CARB’s analysis of higher ethanol blends.

At a May 28 hearing on fuel prices, CARB Chair Randolph acknowledged this priority, stating: *“We’re creating more choices for consumers... providing choices to move away from being locked into one particular fuel... [which] can protect consumers as we make this transition.”*

Given recent announcements that California refineries in Benicia and Wilmington are slated for closure, the urgency of action is growing. As Professor Severin Borenstein of UC Berkeley noted, removing 20% of the state’s fuel supply without a backup plan could raise prices by *“many dollars per gallon.”*

One practical solution already used in 49 other states is E85 conversion kits, which allow gasoline vehicles to run on flex fuel (E85), regular gasoline, or any blend of the two. These kits offer a near-term option to reduce fuel costs and emissions—especially for working families, long-distance commuters, and owners of modern, long-life vehicles. E85 is widely available across California and typically sells for \$1.50–\$2.00 less per gallon than regular gasoline. In 2023, Californians

saved nearly \$100 million using E85 and avoided approximately 370,000 metric tons of GHG emissions.

Despite U.S. EPA authorization of these kits since 2007, none have been approved for use in California under CARB's decade-old certification rules, even though CARB has been working with manufacturers for more than two years. We believe this delay is preventing Californians from accessing proven, emissions-reducing technologies already available nationwide.

As the Legislature considers updates to Cap-and-Trade and the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, it's worth asking whether we're fully leveraging market-based tools already at our disposal. Ethanol has played a central role in LCFS progress to date, and the program's stated intent is to expand access to low-carbon, renewable alternatives that reduce petroleum dependence.

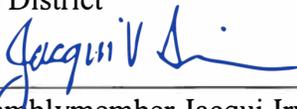
Unlocking E85 conversion kits would allow Californians to use cleaner fuel in their existing vehicles and provide an immediate hedge against gas price volatility.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Assemblymember David Alvarez
80th District



Assemblymember Jacquie Irwin
42nd District



Assemblymember Blanca Rubio
48th District



Assemblymember Darshana Patel
76th District



Assemblymember Juan Alanis
22nd District



Assemblymember Corey Jackson
60th District



Senator Tim Grayson
9th District



Assemblymember Cottie-Petrie Norris
73rd District



Assemblymember Heath Flora
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Assemblymember Greg Wallis
47th District

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Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria
27th District



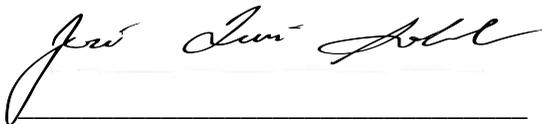
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Assemblymember Patrick Ahrens
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Assemblymember Jose Luis Solache, Jr.
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Assemblymember Mark Gonzalez
54th District



Assemblymember Josh Hoover
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Assemblymember LaShae Sharp-Collins
79th District



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