

July 27, 2026

The Honorable Tony Strickland
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6730
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Strickland:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding MyFirstEV Project (Project) eligibility requirements. You raised concerns about the retroactive eligibility of individuals that purchased a zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) after the Federal tax credit expired, but before the Project was launched. The intent of the Project is to encourage the adoption of ZEVs by providing a financial incentive that encourages Californians to choose a ZEV over a vehicle that contributes to air pollution. It is, therefore, inappropriate, and counter to state goals, to provide an incentive to an individual that purchased a ZEV without needing an incentive to do so.

The Project requirements were established through Senate Bill 168 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 81, Statutes of 2026). In addition to implementing Project requirements that were included in guiding legislation, CARB staff also went through a public process to gather input to inform additional eligibility requirements. Based on that feedback, the program was designed as a prospective incentive intended to nudge a Californian to choose a ZEV over a polluting vehicle at the point of sale. Providing retroactive payments would not further that goal, and would reduce the funding available to encourage first-time ZEV purchases that may not have happened absent that incentive. Additionally, creating a separate, retroactive reimbursement process outside the manufacturer administered point-of-sale rebate would add significant administrative complexity by requiring vehicle manufacturers and dealers to verify eligibility for already completed transactions. As such, it was determined that a California resident must purchase or lease an eligible vehicle after the program launches later this summer. The Project is currently in the implementation phase with vehicle manufacturers, and the eligibility requirements have been finalized consistent with legislative direction.

We understand that this may be disappointing for individuals who purchased or ordered a ZEV recently. We appreciate your interest in California's clean transportation initiatives and value the feedback we receive from members of the public.

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If you have any questions, please contact David Ernest García, Ph.D., Legislative Director, by email at *David.Garcia@arb.ca.gov*.

Sincerely,



Steven S. Cliff, Ph.D., Executive Officer, California Air Resources Board

cc: David Ernest García, Ph.D., Legislative Director, California Air Resources Board