

Holly Schroeder
09-8-5



Strengthening the Voice of Business

September 24, 2009

Mary Nichols
Chair, California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: SUPPORT ARB Staff Draft Recommendation for Incentive Program to Further Reduce Locomotive and Railyard Emission Reductions (Agenda Item 09-8-5)

Dear Chair Nichols:

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Business Federation, we are writing to urge the Board follow its staff recommendation at its September 25th meeting to pursue an incentive program to maximize emissions reductions from locomotives throughout the state.

BizFed - which has 70 member organizations representing well over 100,000 businesses across Los Angeles County - is an ardent advocate of improving regional and statewide transit efforts and pollution-reduction efforts. BizFed members have ranked transportation issues among their top concerns for more than a year now.

Transporting goods by rail yields critical pollutant-emission benefits, reduces greenhouse gasses, and improves freeway congestion in vital areas as part of an efficient and comprehensive statewide goods-movement system. As a key component of California's increasingly clogged and critical transit system, any action on reducing rail emissions should weigh improving efficiencies within the entire system.

In addition, rail transport plays a key role in the state's massive international trade system, which is a vital economic engine for California and must be allowed to thrive - especially in tough economic times - without undue regulatory burdens. An incentive program that preserves business competitiveness and the efficiency of the national goods-movement system will serve to drive down emissions faster.

BizFed supports such incentive plans, noting that ARB has had significant success with previous incentive programs and enforceable MOU agreements with the railroads and other international trade stakeholders. Full implementation of the proposed locomotive measures in the staff's draft recommendations will translate into "a 65 percent reduction in potential cancer risks in communities surrounding railyards by 2015 and 85 percent reduction by 2020" (Page ES-3).

BizFed respectfully urges you consider this request, and support an incentive program to maximize emissions reductions from rail transport across the state.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Holly Schroeder.

Handwritten signature of David Fleming.

Handwritten signature of Tracy Rafter.

Holly Schroeder, BizFed Chair
Building Industry Assoc.

David Fleming, BizFed Founding Chair
Latham & Watkins

Tracy Rafter, BizFed CEO
Rafter Group, Inc.

Cc: Members of the Board; Mr. James Goldstene

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