



Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety

August 7, 2014

The Honorable Bonnie Lowenthal, Chair
Assembly Transportation Committee
1020 N Street, Room 112
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 459 (Pavley) Clean Cars For All
Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Lowenthal:

Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety (CARS) urges your AYE vote for SB 459 (Clean Cars for All), which would improve outreach and access to low income drivers for California's vehicle retirement and replacement programs.

Retiring older, high-polluting vehicles is a cost-effective way to reduce air pollution and help working families reduce pain at the pump. It is estimated that 75% of vehicular pollution is caused by just 25% of the vehicle fleet. Older cars' emission profiles are significantly higher than newer, cleaner cars. While last fiscal year California's vehicle retirement programs retired 39,413 of these high-polluting vehicles, too many still remain on California's roads. These high-emitting vehicles continue to pollute Californians' air, contributing to significant health effects such as asthma and cancer. However, the state's primary tool for ensuring that retired vehicles are substituted with clean replacement vehicles—the Enhanced Fleet Modernization Program—has not yet been successfully implemented.

SB 459 would require the Air Resources Board and the Bureau of Automotive repair to conduct a multilingual outreach campaign, in concert with community groups, in disadvantaged communities to retire high-emitting vehicles for low income Californians and replace them with cleaner, more efficient cars. SB 459 also would direct the California Air Resources Board to reform the Enhanced Fleet Modernization Program (EFMP) to make the program more accessible, convenient, and financially feasible for low income motor vehicle owners to replace their high-polluting vehicles with cleaner cars.

While the EFMP program has been a popular form of assistance for low income motor vehicles owners looking to retire their cars and trucks, the portion of the program that offers vouchers for cleaner replacement vehicles has yet to be implemented successfully.

Replacing extremely inefficient vehicles with even moderately more efficient vehicles can significantly reduce pain at the pump. On average, upgrading to a 25 mile per gallon vehicle from a 15 mile per gallon vehicle would save a California driver approximately \$1,600 every year.

By improving access to vehicle retirement and replacement incentives for low income Californians, SB 459 will significantly improve air quality, benefiting all Californians.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. Should you or your staff have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Shahan

Rosemary Shahan
President

Cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Transportation
Honorable Fran Pavley, Senator 27th Senate District