



May 10, 2021

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol, Room 1137
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 5094
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Senate President pro Tempore
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via email

State Budget: Invest in Clean Air and Equitable Access to Zero-Emission Transportation

Dear Governor Newsom, Speaker Rendon, pro Tem Atkins, Chair Skinner and Chair Ting:

On behalf of the undersigned health and medical organizations, we are writing to call for stronger emphasis on zero-emission transportation and ensuring equitable access to the benefits of these technologies as California's leaders work through the budget process.

In large part due to the transportation sector, Californians face the most difficult air pollution challenges in the United States and climate change is making the job of cleaning our air harder. The American Lung Association's 22nd Annual [State of the Air](#) report found that 98 percent of Californians live in an area with unhealthy ozone and/or particle pollution and California is home to the most polluted cities in the United States. Breathing ozone and fine particles can cause asthma attacks, respiratory and cardiovascular harm, including heart attacks and strokes, and premature deaths. In addition, breathing particle pollution can also cause lung cancer. People of

color are disproportionately exposed to unhealthy air, which can also increase susceptibility to respiratory infections like COVID-19. Air pollution can worsen underlying health conditions which further raises the risks of serious harm from COVID-19.

Due to the outsized impacts the transportation sector has on our air, climate, public health and disparities, our organizations respectfully ask that the budget process:

- **Prioritize the reauthorization of existing clean transportation programs this year** to ensure consistent and stable support for air districts and state agency programs to clean our air, and accelerate the value of those programs to invest \$1 billion in zero-emission infrastructure through the Energy Commission's Clean Transportation Program (CTP):
 - ***Half of these CTP funds should be required to benefit residents of disadvantaged communities or low-income communities, and half of projects should be located within these communities.***
 - ***30 percent of CTP funding should be required to support medium- and heavy-duty vehicle infrastructure.***
- **Invest \$500 million to equity-based zero-emission transportation programs** such as CleanCars4All that facilitate the retirement of the oldest, dirtiest cars and support lower-income residents in transitioning to zero-emission transportation choices such as new or used zero-emission cars, transit or other options.
- **Invest \$890 million to accelerate the transition to zero-emission trucks, buses and off-road equipment.** Heavier duty vehicles contribute a significant share of harmful air pollution in California, and are often concentrated in disadvantaged communities nearest ports, warehouses, freeways and other diesel hot-spots. Accelerating the transition to medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission technologies is a vital investment in healthy air.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to ongoing engagement in this important discussion. Please contact Will Barrett at the American Lung Association with any questions at William.Barrett@Lung.org.

Sincerely,

Catherine Dodd, PhD, RN, Policy Director
CA-Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Jacques Corriveau, MD FAAP, Chair, State Government Affairs Committee
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

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American College of Physicians, California Services Chapter

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