



June 18, 2014

The Honorable Wesley Chesbro, Chair  
 Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
 1020 N St., Room 164  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1275 (de León), Charge Ahead California Initiative -- Support**

Dear Chairman Chesbro and Committee Members:

On behalf of the undersigned medical and health organizations, we are writing to express our strong support for SB 1275, the Charge Ahead California Initiative. SB 1275, by Senator de León, will help clean up our air, improve public health and transform California's transportation system by extending cleaner transportation choices to all of California's communities, including low-income communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution.

Exhaust from millions of gasoline and diesel-powered cars, buses and trucks pollutes our air and costs California billions in avoidable health costs. Four in ten Californians live close enough to a freeway or busy road that they are at increased risk of asthma and other health hazards. Cars, buses and trucks are also the single largest source of global warming pollution in California. Accelerating the deployment of zero emission vehicles is critical to achieving California's healthy air standards and GHG reduction targets. In addition, the use of electricity as a transportation fuel will reduce consumer costs and help insulate family budgets from gas price spikes, which hit lower income households especially hard.

Thanks to California's policy leadership, California accounts for one-third of the country's electric vehicle sales. But transforming the market to benefit all Californians will take a sustained, long-term commitment to better serve the state's most polluted communities. Therefore, we support SB 1275, which aims to bring one million electric cars, trucks and buses to California over the next decade and ensure that low-income Californians, who are disproportionately impacted by air pollution, benefit from the transition to a clean transportation sector.

SB 1275 would accomplish these goals in two ways:

- First, it would direct the Air Resources Board to develop a long-term funding plan to meet the goal of putting one million electric cars, trucks and buses on California's streets while ensuring that low-income/disadvantaged communities benefit from this transition.
- Second, the bill would extend electric transportation to disadvantaged and low- and moderate-income communities by modifying the existing clean vehicle rebate program and creating a credit enhancement program for low-income drivers who wish to purchase or lease an electric car. The bill also supports new charging infrastructure in multi-unit dwellings, and electric car sharing programs in low income neighborhoods.

SB 1275 will provide the policy guidance needed to make electric vehicles and clean transportation options available to greater numbers of Californians, especially those who are disproportionately impacted by air pollution. For this reason, we are pleased to offer our strong support of SB 1275.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Holmes-Gen  
Senior Director, Policy and Advocacy  
**American Lung Association in California**

Alison Ramey, State Legislative Director  
**American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network**

Robert Vinetz, MD, FAAP, Co-Chair  
**Asthma Coalition of Los Angeles County**

Praveen Buddiga, MD, CEO  
**Baz Allergy, Asthma & Sinus Center (SJ Valley)**

Nancy Perrin, President  
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Heidi R. Flori, MD, President  
**California Thoracic Society**

Eric Lerner, Climate Director  
**Health Care Without Harm**

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**Los Angeles County Medical Association**

Steve Heilig, MPH  
Assoc. Executive Director, Public Health & Education  
**San Francisco Medical Association**

cc: Senator Kevin de León