



June 22, 2023

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia, Chair
Assembly Utilities and Energy
1020 N Street, Room 408A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support SB 410 (Becker) – Powering Up Californians Act

Dear Chair Garcia and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the undersigned health and medical organizations, we are writing to express our support for Senate Bill 410 (SB 410, Becker), the Powering Up Californians Act. This legislation will support the development of adequate infrastructure to support the critical shift to zero-emission technologies to improve health and address climate change in California.

The transportation sector is the leading source of harmful air and climate pollution in California. More than 90 percent of Californians live in a community impacted by unhealthy levels of ozone and/or particle pollution, and climate change impacts make the job of cleaning our air more difficult. Ozone and particle pollution contribute to a wide range of health emergencies, including a variety of lung health and cardiovascular impacts, and thousands of premature deaths annually in California. Children, seniors, those living with lung and heart illnesses, lower-income communities and communities of color face increased risk.

Under the federal Clean Air Act, California has the unique authority to develop and implement vehicle emission standards necessary to protect health from extreme air pollution burdens. Recently adopted California policies to ensure the widescale transition to zero-emission transportation necessitate a renewed focus on infrastructure deployment. Notably, California's Advanced Clean Cars II and Advanced Clean Fleets policies require 100 percent of new car and medium/heavy-duty truck sales to be zero-emission by 2035 and 2036, respectively. California is also moving toward greater deployments of zero-emission buildings and appliances, which will require ongoing planning and construction of electrical pathways. Timely buildout of the energy necessary to support healthy, non-combustion technologies is critical to ensuring the potential benefits of these programs become a reality in communities throughout California.

SB 410 would require the State Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to establish average and maximum timelines for utilities to provide the electricity needed by customers. This legislation would also require annual reporting to the PUC to ensure timelines are being met or delays are being mitigated to ensure ongoing progress. Further, SB 410 will require utilities to adequately plan for relevant decarbonization plans, strategies or laws enacted at the local, regional, state

and federal levels and to adopt plans to meet the timelines laid out by the PUC. These steps will help to ensure that the utilities have clear timelines for energy deployment and plan for successfully supporting health-protective measures that reduce harmful air and climate pollution.

We support Senate Bill 410 as a practical approach to ensuring that utility customers are not faced with lengthy delays as they seek to implement healthier technologies.

Please contact Will Barrett with the American Lung Association with any questions at William.Barrett@Lung.org.

Sincerely,

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