

April 5, 2013

Assemblymember Bonnie Lowenthal, Chair
California Assembly Transportation Committee
State Capitol Room 3152
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Eric Linder, Vice Chair
California Assembly Transportation Committee
State Capitol Room 2016
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **AB 8 (Support)**

Dear Assemblymembers Lowenthal and Linder:

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), an organization dedicated to promoting job growth, economic expansion, and preserving the overall global competitiveness of California and Los Angeles County, I am writing to urge your support on Assembly Bill (AB) 8 (Perea), which would continue funding for some of the state's most successful clean air and technology programs.

With aggressive goals and policies at the federal, state and local levels (especially here in Los Angeles County with efforts like the Clean Air Action Plan implemented by the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other noxious airborne pollutants, we believe the most practical and workable way to achieve the co-equal goals of a cleaner environment and a stronger economy is to incentivize (as opposed to mandate) early adoption and innovation of products, processes, services and technologies to achieve those goals. Only then can we ensure a cleaner, healthier environment *and* spur growth in our state's fast-emerging, jobs-creating clean technology sector. AB 8 would extend California's two landmark programs to retrofit and replace older, more polluting vehicles (Carl Moyer Program) and to develop and deploy new clean vehicle technologies (AB 118). The LAEDC believes that these two programs are important to incentivizing the use, development, and deployment of cleaner, advanced, and more fuel efficient vehicles, which is helping to spur innovation, job creation and capital investment in our local and state economies.

Here in Los Angeles County, we have seen a flurry of economic activity in the area of clean technology (and specifically in clean vehicles), which is helping to attract new investments into our economy, spur new start-ups and companies in our region, and improve our environment and quality of life. In the Los Angeles basin, the LAEDC estimates that industries which have been classified as having green goods and services activities employed over 628,000 workers in 2011, which is equivalent to 19% of all private employment in the County of Los Angeles.

Even more, on LAEDC's various trade missions to other countries (including Canada, China, and Korea), we have seen a marked increase in interest in the Los Angeles region's clean technology space by foreign companies and leaders because of our demonstrated leadership in the area of clean technology—much of which is owed to programs like Carl Moyer and AB 118, which have set up the tools that we, as a region, need to attract more investment and leverage our own built-in-assets to grow

the nascent but burgeoning industry cluster for advanced transportation and alternative fuels. The LAEDC is actively and aggressively working to translate this global increased “interest” into additional foreign direct investment attraction opportunities for international firms looking to take advantage of Los Angeles County’s and California’s clean technology leadership and “first-mover” status. But to continue and grow our clean technology leadership position, we must continue the Carl Moyer and AB 118 incentive programs as extended by AB 8.

For all of the above reasons, the LAEDC urges your support of AB 8—a much-needed program to continue and accelerate our advanced transportation, clean technology leadership at the state and local levels to spur technological innovation, generate economic growth, and improve our environment.

Sincerely,



David Flaks, Chief Operating Officer
LAEDC

cc: Governor Jerry Brown
Senate President pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg
Senator Bob Huff, Republican Leader
Speaker of the Assembly John Pérez
Assemblymember Connie Conway, Republican Leader
Assemblymember Henry Perea