

December 22, 2016

To: California Air Resources Board (CARB)

From: Northeast and Mid-Atlantic legislative leadership

Re: Zero Emission Vehicle Regulation

To the officials of the California Air Resources Board,

The Zero-Emission Vehicle regulation is one of the most important policies driving the growth of clean cars in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region. We are writing today to express our support for a strong Zero Emission Vehicle regulation that will ensure that we achieve our multi-state goal of putting over 3 million Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) on the road by 2025.

Federal law allows California to administer the ZEV regulation on its own behalf and that of nine other states, including 8 states in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region (Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, New York, New Jersey and Maryland). The ZEV regulation requires automakers to sell an increasing number of electric vehicles (EVs) and other ZEVs, rising to 15 percent of total new vehicle sales by 2025.

The success of the ZEV program is critical for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region. The states of the Northeast are committed to reducing our emissions of greenhouse gas pollution to protect public health and welfare and diminish the impacts of climate change. Meeting our state emission-reduction targets will require aggressive action to reduce emissions from the transportation sector, which is the largest source of emissions, in the Northeast accounting for nearly 40 percent of our greenhouse gas pollution. Electric vehicles and other ZEV technologies produce significantly fewer emissions than conventional vehicles, and are a critical component to achieving our climate goals.

In addition, electric vehicles save consumers money, cut oil use, and protect the health of our communities. With current electricity prices in the region, fueling a car with electricity is cheaper than gasoline. And this savings translates into more money spent in the local economy. Electric vehicles powered by clean electricity can further reduce emissions of particulate matter, pollutants that contribute to ground-level ozone, and other harmful air pollutants that are dangerous to human health.

Public opinion research shows that many drivers in the Northeast are ready to make the switch to an electric vehicle. However, recent studies by the Union of Concerned Scientists and the Sierra Club demonstrate that automakers are still not doing nearly enough to make electric vehicles available in our region.

One major challenge is that the ZEV program has yet to require automakers to bring vehicles to the region, allowing vehicles sales in California to count towards compliance in the Northeast. This

exemption must expire at the end of 2017 as scheduled to ensure that Northeast consumers have access to the full suite of available plug-in vehicle options to meet their individual needs.

In addition, we support updating the ZEV program to keep pace with the faster-than-expected advancement of ZEV technology, thereby ensuring we remain on track to achieve the emission-reduction goals of the ZEV program.

Northeast states have worked concertedly to build a robust market and supporting infrastructure for electric vehicles in our region. We stand ready to work with you to continue to accelerate the growth of ZEVs in the Northeast region.

Sincerely,

Rep. Anthony Klein, Chair, Joint Energy Committee, Vermont

Sen. Christopher Bray, Vice Chair, Joint Energy Committee, Vermont

Sen. Christopher Pearson, Co-Chair, Climate Caucus, Vermont

Rep. Mary Hooper, Co-Chair, Climate Caucus, Vermont

Rep. Mary Sullivan, House Energy Committee, Vermont

Rep. Lonnie Reed, Co-Chair, Energy and Technology Committee, Connecticut

Rep. James Albis, Co-Chair, Environment Committee, Connecticut

Rep. Paul Schmid, Chair, Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, Massachusetts

Rep. Frank Smizik, Chair, House Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change, Massachusetts

Sen. Jamie Eldridge, co-author, S. 2505, An Act Promoting Electric Vehicle Adoption, Massachusetts

Rep. Jonathan Hecht, co-author, H. 3085, An Act Promoting Electric Vehicle Adoption, Massachusetts

Sen. Gayle Goldin, Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture, Rhode Island

Rep. Art Handy, Chair, House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, Rhode Island

Rep. Amy Paulin, Chair, Energy Committee, New York

Rep. Steve Englebright, Chair, Environmental Conservation Committee, New York

Rep. Tom Eustace, Chair, Environment and Solid Waste Committee, New Jersey

Rep. Eric Luedke, co-sponsor, H. 0669, Maryland

Rep. David Fraser-Hidalgo, author, H.B. 0110, Maryland