

Hydrogen Means Business in California!

April 9, 2021

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The Honorable Senator Hueso
 California State Capitol, Room 4035
 Sacramento, CA 95814-0011

Re: SB 589 – CHBC SUPPORT; RECOMMEND CLARIFYING AMENDMENTS

Dear Senator Hueso,

I am writing on behalf of the California Hydrogen Business Council (CHBC)ⁱ to support SB 589 (Hueso). This bill will require the commission to identify workforce development and training resources needed to meet the state’s goal of putting at least 5 million zero-emission vehicles in service by 2030 and reducing greenhouse gases emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030.

The CHBC supports workforce training for the zero-emission vehicle industry and the inclusion of the Community College system and Conservation Corps in these efforts. California will need a skilled workforce to bring about a smooth transition to zero-emission vehicles (ZEV), which includes both battery electric vehicles (BEVs) and fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs). We would point out that FCEVs are electric vehicles with on-board hydrogen storage and a fuel cell, which generates and delivers electricity to a battery that powers the vehicle. FCEV technology provides the option for an extended range ZEV and increases customer convenience with fast refueling times and utilization of neighborhood refueling centers. FCEVs represent a growing share of the transportation market and rely on a skilled workforce to maintain and repair vehicles and infrastructure. As such, FCEVs and hydrogen refueling infrastructure should be included in this bill’s workforce development scope and the state’s broader ZEV goals.

The CHBC recommends the following amendments to the bill to include FCEV refueling infrastructure. As currently written, Public Resources Code Section 25229 (a) expressly calls out “electric vehicle charging infrastructure,” which does not include FCEV “hydrogen refueling infrastructure.” We recommend the language be amended to “zero emission infrastructure,” which includes both electric charging infrastructure and FCEV hydrogen refueling infrastructure. Subsection (b) of the same code section should also be amended to include FCEV hydrogen refueling infrastructure with a similar amendment. We provide recommended language below for both sub-sections.

SEC. 2.

Section 25229 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

25229.

(a) The commission, working with the State Air Resources Board and the Public Utilities Commission, shall prepare a statewide assessment of the ~~zero-emission electric~~ vehicle ~~electric charging and hydrogen fueling infrastructure~~ needed to support the levels of ~~zero-emission electric~~ vehicle adoption required for the state to meet its goals of putting at least five million zero-emission vehicles on California roads by 2030, and of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030.

(b) The assessment shall expand on the commission’s ~~zero-emission electric~~ vehicle infrastructure projections to consider all necessary ~~zero-emission electric~~ charging and hydrogen fueling infrastructure, including, but not limited to, the ~~electric chargers and hydrogen fueling stations~~, make-ready ~~electrical~~ equipment, and supporting hardware and software, ~~for all vehicle categories, including on-road, highway,~~ and off-road electrification, port and airport electrification, and other programs to accelerate the adoption of ~~zero-emission electric~~ vehicles to meet the goals described in subdivision (a). The assessment shall examine existing and future infrastructure needs throughout California, including in low-income communities

The CHBC appreciates your consideration of these amendments and is prepared to support SB 589 and other efforts you have undertaken to advance the commercialization of hydrogen and fuel cell technology.

Sincerely,



William Zobel
Executive Director
California Hydrogen Business Council

ⁱⁱ The CHBC is comprised of over 100 companies and agencies involved in the business of hydrogen. Our mission is to advance the commercialization of hydrogen in the energy sector, including transportation, goods movement, and stationary power systems, to reduce emissions and dependence on oil. **The views expressed in these comments are those of the CHBC and do not necessarily reflect the views of all of the individual CHBC member companies.** CHBC Members are listed here: <https://www.californiahydrogen.org/aboutus/chbc-members/>