



February 11, 2021

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The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2188
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB XX (Rodriguez) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Rodriguez:

The California Hydrogen Business Council (CHBC)ⁱ writes to express support for your legislation, AB XX (Rodriguez), which sets a 100% green and zero-carbon hydrogen transportation fuel standard and enables greater zero emission light and heavy-duty vehicle adoption by providing a 10-year investment tax credit for renewable hydrogen production, distribution and refueling stations.

By incentivizing hydrogen fuel production and the build out of an additional 1,000 hydrogen refueling stations (HRS) through this tax credit, an estimated \$11 billion in private sector investment will be unleashed, which will create significant strides toward the self-sustainability of hydrogen and fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs) in California’s transportation market. According to the Hydrogen Station Network Self-Sufficiency Analysis conducted by the California Air Resources Boardⁱⁱ, HRS network self-sufficiency is achievable within the decade with additional state support beyond AB 8. This bill fulfills that requirement to help bring HRS to scale at a low societal cost. Further, investments in this market will generate significant sales and use taxes for state and local jurisdictions and create good paying jobs for Californians in a growing market segment.


FCEVs are a critical component in achieving the state’s air quality and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals. FCEVs rely on a refueling infrastructure which provides the convenience of fast refueling, make good use of the same neighborhood locations drivers use today including those living in multi-family dwellings, with no access to garage parking, and with lengthy commutes, many of whom may find it difficult or inconvenient to charge a battery electric vehicle.

According to the Air Resources Board, Energy Commission and the South Coast Air Quality Management District, 1,000 strategically located HRS will provide ZEV refueling access to 94% of the geographic state and 97% of the state's disadvantaged communities. Strategically located, this statewide FCEV refueling coverage will catalyze investments that support a shift away from the use of diesel fuel along our freight corridors. This 1,000 HRS buildout will displace an estimated 693 million gallons of gasoline, avoid almost three million metric tons of GHG emissions, and 3,900 metric tons of NOx emissions annually.

The CHBC further encourages the author to consider amendments, which specifically address the FCEV needs of the off-road sector. For example, there are many cases where on-road and off-road FCEVs may utilize the same refueling center, or where off-road FCEVs require HRS infrastructure that results in significant improvements to local air quality. Additionally, off-road opportunities exist for marine, rail and aviation FCEVs, all of which require HRS infrastructure. The CHBC believes the off-road market segment is ripe for FCEV technology and would like to ensure off-road HRS opportunities are considered in the bill.

The CHBC is proud to support this bill, which ensures that California meets and exceeds its climate goals by providing reasonable and targeted support in the form of tax credits for hydrogen fuel production and dispensing. We further encourage the author to consider amendments that expressly support the off-road transportation market segment as well.

Sincerely,



William Zobel
Executive Director
California Hydrogen Business Council

ⁱ The CHBC is comprised of over 120 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/>

ⁱⁱ [Hydrogen Station Network Self-Sufficiency Analysis per Assembly Bill 8 \(ca.gov\)](#)