Hydrogen Means Business in California!

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April 7, 2021

The Honorable Ben Hueso, Chair Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities & Communications State Capitol, Room 4035 Sacramento, CA 94249-0001

Re: SB 662 - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Hueso,

I am writing on behalf of the California Hydrogen Business Council (CHBC)<sup>i</sup> in support of SB 662 (Archuleta). The bill supports the commercialization of hydrogen and fuel cell technology in California and will help the state meet its air quality and carbon reduction goals.

Current law allows the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to direct electrical investor-owned utilities (IOUs) to make investments in transportation electrification that support the state's zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) goals. Unfortunately, no such program exists for the state's gas utilities who have the potential to affect widespread transportation electrification in an equally powerful way through the funding of projects related to the infrastructure needed to distribute zero-emission, renewable hydrogen transportation fuel.

Investments in battery-electric charging infrastructure by electrical IOUs aimed at achieving the state's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets in the transportation sector, while laudable, will not get us there alone. Hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs) are undoubtedly another significant option to reduce GHG emissions. The cost of transporting and distributing hydrogen fuel and the lack among supporting distribution infrastructure have proven to be one of the most significant barriers to the widespread adoption of FCEVs. This bill aims to reduce market barriers and make access to hydrogen through utility-supported investments an option.

By providing gas IOUs the opportunity to participate in transitioning our transportation sector to zero-emissions, California can ensure the successful attainment of air quality standards and accomplish the state's ambitious emission reduction goals. SB 662 will build on successes made by utilities in other market segments and allow gas IOUs to participate through the advancement of hydrogen transportation fuel.

For these reasons, the CHBC supports SB 662.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

California Hydrogen Business Council

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>i</sup> 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/