

June 10, 2024

The Honorable Juan Carrillo
Chair, Assembly Local Government Committee
1020 N Street, Room 157
Sacramento, CA 95864

Dear Assemblyman Carrillo,

The California Hydrogen Business Council¹ (CHBC) is the longest established and largest hydrogen trade association in the United States, comprised of nearly 130 companies, agencies, communities, and individuals involved in the business of hydrogen. Our mission is to educate the public on the substantial benefits of hydrogen and to develop and advance policy positions that support the commercialization of hydrogen in the energy and transportation sectors to achieve California's climate, air quality, and decarbonization goals.

The CHBC writes in support of SB 1418 (Archuleta) and the streamlining of the administrative approval process for hydrogen fueling stations. This levels with the process for battery electric charging stations, equalizing the process for both types of zero emission vehicles (fuel cell electric and battery electric) .

Recognizing the significant investments that are expected to result from the ARCHES hydrogen hub program, California must have the policy to support optimal utilization of those resources, including for the expedited implementation of refueling infrastructure. Demand for these vehicles is increasing quickly, and the refueling must come today to provide certainty and ease for all classes of vehicle deployment. SB 1418 will help tremendously in this effort.

Regarding the existing definition of a refueling station², which only refers to 'the equipment used to store and dispense hydrogen', it does not reflect the ability of a station to also have on-site hydrogen generation, and SB 1418 provisions rightly include modifications to the definition.

Since 2015, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) has included on-site hydrogen production in both editions of its "Hydrogen Station Permitting Guidebook".³ Additionally, there are historical examples of stations with on-site steam methane reformers, for example, having been deployed in Newport Beach⁴ and Burbank⁵ prior to when this definition was codified in 2022.

On-site hydrogen production at fueling stations - either with traditional or new and novel technologies - are certain to be developed moving forward. As such, we also support language in SB 1418, which will update the definition of a fueling station to reflect on-site hydrogen production.

¹ <https://californiahydrogen.org/>

² [Government Code Section 65850.7\(i\)\(4\), pursuant to Senate Bill 1291 \(Chapter 373, Statutes of 2022\)](#)

³ Go-Biz's Hydrogen Station Permitting Handbook, [2015 Edition](#) & [2020 Edition](#)

⁴ [Newport Beach | Hydrogen Fuel Cell Partnership \(h2fcp.org\)](#)

⁵ [Burbank | Hydrogen Fuel Cell Partnership \(h2fcp.org\)](#)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Hamilton". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Jennifer Hamilton, Vice President
California Hydrogen Business Council
jennifer@californiahydrogen.org
916.267.4083

CC: Honorable Members, Assembly Local Government Committee
Angela Mapp, Consultant, Local Government Committee
William Webber, Consultant, Republican Caucus