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April 14, 2025

Sen. Anna Caballero
1021 O Street, Suite 7620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 71 – CHBC Support

The California Hydrogen Business Council (CHBC) is a membership-based trade association comprised of 110 companies, agencies, and organizations involved in the business of hydrogen. The CHBC is the largest and longest-established advocate for the hydrogen and fuel cell industry in Sacramento. We write today in support of Senate Bill 71 (Wiener).

SB 71 will make permanent the statutory California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemptions for transit & active transportation projects that significantly advance the state's climate, safety, and public health goals, while improving access and mobility options. This includes projects involving hydrogen refueling infrastructure. There are over 200 buses in the state of California either in service or on order that use hydrogen as a zero-emission fuel, and the fueling infrastructure needed to supply that hydrogen should be permitted without unnecessarily delaying projects that have an immediate positive impact on local air quality and decarbonization.

The purpose of CEQA is environmental benefit; transit projects achieve that environmental benefit without the need for extra process. Therefore, it makes sense to give transit projects a permanent exemption to CEQA, an exemption which already exists until January 1, 2030 through previous legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim McRae", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim McRae
Vice President for Public Affairs