March 30, 2021

The Honorable Bill Dodd  
Chair, Senate Governmental Organization Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 584  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 551 (Stern & Hertzberg) California Electric Vehicle Authority - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Dodd:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our support for Senate Bill 551 (Stern & Hertzberg), which would establish the California Electric Vehicle Authority in the Governor’s Office.

California is the national leader in the adoption and manufacturing of electric vehicles (“EV”), home to nearly 50 percent of all EVs on U.S. roads, with EVs now ranking as the state’s top export. California’s leadership has helped spur transportation electrification to tackle the climate crisis, improve air quality and public health particularly in disadvantaged communities, and grow cleantech industries while creating green jobs.

In September 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-79-20, establishing a goal for all new passenger cars and trucks, as well as all drayage and cargo trucks and off-road vehicles and equipment, sold in California, to be zero-emission by 2035, where feasible. The order also sets a goal for all medium and heavy-duty vehicles to be zero-emission by 2045.

California faces significant barriers to achieving these goals and related air and climate policies, including lack of:

- **Sufficient and consistent funding and financing** to support the widespread build out of needed charging infrastructure, procurement of public and private EV fleets, incentives for adoption including affordable EV access for low-income residents and disadvantaged communities who face disproportionate burden of air pollution and transportation deserts, ensuring maximum utilization of federal stimulus for transportation electrification, among other priorities;
- **A clear statewide leader with the authority to accelerate progress** by coordinating, aligning, and holding accountable the 29 state agencies touching transportation electrification along the regional, local and private sector entities; and
- **Clear economic development tools** to grow the industry and supply chain (e.g., Lithium Valley) and **investment in workforce development needs** to support the transition regionally and statewide.

SB 551 bill would establish the California Electric Vehicle Authority, led by an EV czar, within the
Governor’s office to:

- Create a set of funding and financing tools to support the transition and economic development, including enhancing existing sources for charging, mobility and vehicles, addressing gaps in related financial products, identifying new sources that can be used to unlock private capital, and coordinating related future federal stimulus and ongoing funding;
- Serve as the unified face of transportation electrification and zero emissions goods movement, coordinating across statewide efforts to update interim targets, create clear responsibility and ensure accountability; and
- Prioritize equity in all funding and programs, economic development, and enhanced workforce training.

SB 551 would help address barriers to achieving Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-79-20 by streamlining consistent funding, providing clear economic development tools to grow the industry and supply chain, and establishing a clear statewide leader with the authority to accelerate progress by coordinating, aligning, and holding accountable the many state agencies that play important roles in transportation electrification.

For all of these reasons, we respectfully request your support of SB 551. With the current health and economic crisis, California needs to help put people back to work, restart our economy, and clean up our air by accelerating progress in transportation electrification and zero-emission goods movement while prioritizing equity, job training, and growing existing and new businesses through bold actions such as SB 551.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tina Gallier
Board Member
350 Sacramento

Nicole Kemeny
President
350 Silicon Valley

Heidi Sickler
Policy Director
AMPLY Power

Spencer Reeder
Director of Government Affairs & Sustainability
Audi of America
Cecilia V. Estolano  
CEO  
Better World Group

Patrick Guild  
Chief Operating Officer  
Breathe California Sacramento Region

Frank Girardot  
Senior Director of Communications  
BYD North America

Ruben Aronin  
Director  
California Business Alliance for a Clean Economy

Drew Wood  
Executive Director  
California Kids IAQ

Brian Nowicki  
Climate Policy Director  
Center for Biological Diversity

Kevin Hamilton  
Co-founder & Co-director  
Central California Asthma Collaborative

Jennifer Helfrich  
Senior Manager, State Policy West  
Ceres

Kameale Terry  
CEO  
ChargerHelp

Alexander Esposito  
Co-founder & CEO  
Circuit

Bobbie Singh-Allen  
Mayor  
City of Elk Grove
Gina Goodhill
Policy Director
**Clean Power Alliance**

Jesse Marquez
Executive Director
**Coalition for a Safe Environment**

Janelle London and Matthew Metz
Co-Executive Directors
**Coltura**

Bahram Fazeli
Director of Research and Policy
**Communities for a Better Environment**

Richard Pulido
Executive Director
**Community Dreams**

Michael Chiacos
Director of Energy and Climate Programs
**Community Environmental Council Santa Barbara**

Alex Fisch
Mayor
**City of Culver City**

Guy Hall
Director of Policy
**Electric Auto Association**

Magali Sanchez-Hall
Executive Director
**EMERGE**

Dr. Karim Farhat
Director of Mobility Solutions
**ENGIE Impact**

Laura Deehan
State Director
**Environment California**
Michael Colvin  
Director Regulatory and Legislative Affairs, California Energy Program  
**Environmental Defense Fund**

Kent Bullard  
Member  
**EV Advocates of Ventura County**

Danny Hom, Strategy Officer  
Adewale OgunBadejo, Workforce Development Manager  
**GRID Alternatives Greater Los Angeles**

Weston Labar  
CEO  
**Harbor Trucking Association**

Craig Newman  
Regional Vice President  
**Itron**

Marie Bedard  
Director of Commercial Operations  
**Lion Electric Co.**

Roger Dickinson  
Policy Director  
**Local Government Commission**

Mary Leslie  
President  
**Los Angeles Business Council**

Feroza Stegmann  
Sales Operation Manager  
**Motiv Power Systems**

Joe R. Gatlin  
Vice President  
**NAACP - San Pedro-Wilmington Branch #1069**

Rachel Nguyen  
Director, Nissan Mobility Lab  
**Nissan North America**
Veronica Padilla  
Executive Director  
Pacoima Beautiful

Joseph Pekarovic  
Vice President, Strategic Alliances  
PCS Energy

Joel Levin  
Executive Director  
Plug In America

Chelsea Jenkins  
Vice President of Government and Industry Relations  
ROUSH CleanTech

Shannon Parry  
Chief Sustainability Officer  
City of Santa Monica

Steve Frisch  
CEO  
Sierra Business Council

Daniel Barad  
Policy Advocate  
Sierra Club California

Andrew Baldonado  
Managing Director, State Public Affairs  
Southern California Edison

Modesta Pulido  
Chairperson  
St. Philomena Social Justice Ministry

Victor N. La Rosa  
President & CEO  
Total Transportation Services (TTSI)

Austin Heyworth  
Senior Public Affairs Manager  
Uber
Charles Jolley  
CEO  
**URB-E**

Conyers Davis  
Director of Programming & Special Projects  
**USC Schwarzenegger Institute**

Evan Schmidt  
CEO  
**Valley Vision**

Sue Hughes  
Executive Director  
**Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance**

Jacquelyn Badejo  
Director of Programs  
**Watts Clean Air and Energy Committee**

Jenny Scanlin  
Chief Development Officer  
**Watts Rising Collaborative**

Anabell Romero Chavez  
Board Member  
**Wilmington Improvement Network**

Dakota Semler  
CEO  
**XOS Trucks**

Carol Brock  
Ventura, CA

Cc: Senator Stern and Senator Hertzberg