



*Climate Neutral for a Healthy, Prosperous Menlo Park*

The Honorable Jim Frazier  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Transportation  
1020 N Street, Room 112  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1745 (Ting) – Support

Dear Chairman Frazier:

On behalf of Menlo Spark, this letter expresses support for Assembly Bill 1745 (Ting), the Clean Cars 2040 Act, which will require all new passenger vehicles in California to be zero-emissions vehicles (ZEV) by 2040. Menlo Spark is a nonprofit community group with a mission to make the City of Menlo Park climate neutral and support a more sustainable region, including a transition away from fossil fuel-based transportation.

California must urgently reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the transportation sector, which is the single largest source of pollution.<sup>1</sup> While the state has made gains toward meeting near-term carbon reduction targets through AB 32 climate programs, the current effort is not enough to achieve clean, healthy air or a stable climate. Consider for instance that pollution-related deaths and illness cost the state \$15 billion in 2015 according to the American Lung Association, and extreme weather and dramatically worsened wildfires also have accelerating costs. The cost of California's 2017 wildfire season alone exceeded \$65 billion, and included a tragic loss of 42 lives.

On the other hand, transitioning away from fossil fuel vehicles can have substantial health and economic benefits to families and businesses throughout the state. Not only do ZEV owners avoid tailpipe fumes, they also see significant savings for daily driving needs. Depending on the specific model, an electric car costs about half as much to run as a gas-powered car, due to fewer maintenance costs and cheaper "fuel" (electricity used per mile as compared to gasoline), saving an average of almost \$800 per year. Further, more electric car and truck models are offered each year, expanding the driving range (per charge), offering cheaper models, and also heavier duty and specialty models such as pick-up trucks, SUVs, and minivans.

---

<sup>1</sup> We relied on the following sources for the information in this letter:

<https://a19.asmdc.org/sites/a19.asmdc.org/files/pdf/ab-1745-clean-cars-2040-fact-sheet.pdf>

<https://climateprotection.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Survey-on-Global-Activities-to-Phase-Out-ICE-Vehicles-FINAL.pdf>

<https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2017/12/12/16762120/los-angeles-california-fire-climate-change>

<https://www.ucsusa.org/clean-vehicles/electric-vehicles/car-charging-time-type-cost#.WqwBaq3MygQ>

<https://cars.usnews.com/cars-trucks/cheapest-electric-cars>

<https://www.chargepoint.com/blog/dont-miss-these-exciting-new-ev-models-coming-2018/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_countries\\_banning\\_fossil\\_fuel\\_vehicles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_banning_fossil_fuel_vehicles)

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-11-21/global-electric-car-sales-jump-63-percent-as-china-demand-surges>



*Climate Neutral for a Healthy, Prosperous Menlo Park*

Over the past few years we have witnessed a stunning global response to the climate crisis with at least ten countries moving to phase out diesel and gas cars in the near term (Norway in 2025; India, Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland, and Israel in 2030; Scotland in 2032; China, Britain, France, and Taiwan in 2040). At least nine major automakers are expanding their focus on electric vehicles, including Ford, General Motors, Toyota, Volvo, VW, Daimler, BMW, Jaguar, and Land Rover. Companies that already specialize in EVs, such as Nissan and Tesla are seeing enormous growth, such that EV sales grew more than 60 percent over the last year, representing a substantial new component of the clean energy economy.

California should maintain its position as a global leader on climate policy, clean energy, and the environment by considering a phase out of polluting fossil fuel vehicles (*new registrations*) by 2030 matching the five nations listed above. We believe this will benefit California communities, not just by boosting our clean energy economy, but also by helping low-income families that depend on car ownership for lack of other mobility options, to access cheaper and healthier vehicles. ***Although we urge consideration of a faster timeframe of 2030 matching several other nations phasing out fossil fuel vehicles, we remain supportive of the current 2040 goal in AB 1745.***

We urge your support for AB 1745, a critical step towards clean air and a stable climate for California. Thank you in advance for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Diane Bailey, Executive Director  
Menlo Spark