



California Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition

October 30, 2017

The Hon. Mike Bonin
Chair, Transportation Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 17-0739 - 100 Percent Zero Emission Fleet by 2030 GOAL

The Hon. Mike Bonin:

On behalf of the California Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition (CNGVC), I would like to provide the following comments on the proposed plan to transition the fleet for the City of Los Angeles to 100 percent zero emissions by 2030. The environmental aim of the proposal is commendable; we agree with the goal of pursuing clean technology that improves air quality for Angelenos. We were supportive of a similar effort by LA Metro earlier this year. During that process, we encouraged LA Metro to include near-zero emission natural gas buses powered by renewable natural gas (RNG or biomethane), an ultra-clean fuel derived from biogas, as an additional tool to reduce emissions. We would like to make that same recommendation to the City as well.

The Legislature, working with Governor Brown, has passed legislation that helps create programs that provide a suite of options for government and private fleets as they transition to cleaner alternatives to help us reach our climate and clean air goals. We know that one size does not fit all and the beauty of programs such as the Heavy-Duty Vehicle Incentive Program (HVIP) is that it allows transit agencies, refuse companies, etc., to select the technology that works for them and provide an incentive voucher to help cover the costs to switch to an alternative, cleaner fuel.

As we continue to adopt policies and goals that will help clean up our air, it is imperative that we accelerate the use of clean vehicle technologies and renewable fuels through targeted introduction of zero and near-zero technologies. This includes developing policy options that encourage zero and near-zero vehicles in local and state government fleets.

While we pursue sorely needed emission reductions, it is important that we follow a “big tent” model. California needs a plethora of options if we are going to continue to lead the country and the world in clean air reductions. The Chair of the Air Resources Board, Mary Nichols, said it best at the 2016 Rethink Methane conference in Sacramento, “Many of us have differences in opinion about how we best get to

our required air quality or climate targets, but I don't think anyone would deny that". She goes on to say, "we'll continue to rely on combustion for some time in the heavy-duty sector and in applications that can't easily be electrified, we should use renewable fuels in engines that produce the lowest possible NOx and particulate matter emissions. Renewable gas can be a key element to deliver progress in each of these necessary areas."

We urge you to purchase a variety of clean vehicles that best meet the clean air and climate change goals for the City of Los Angeles.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me, if you have any questions or concerns at thomas@cngvc.org or at 888-538-7036.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Lawson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Thomas Lawson

President, California Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition