



California Service Station and Automotive Repair Association
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April 27, 2009

The Honorable _____
California State Assembly
State Capitol - 10th & L St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUPPORT AB 96

Dear Assembly Member _____:

The members of the California Service Station and Automotive Repair Association (CSSARA) are strongly in support of AB 96 by Assembly Member Ruskin. CSSARA is a 35-year-old trade association whose members are small business men and women who independently own and operate service stations and automotive repair shops in California.

Our members are in extreme hardship circumstances as a result of the current economic catastrophe, their inability to obtain financing during today's lending crisis, and the current reduction in the consumption of gasoline.

As a result of this state of affairs many service stations in California have been unable to meet the April 1, 2009 deadline for the new Enhanced Vapor Recovery (EVR) regulations adopted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

AB 96 would make \$8 million in grants available to stations for the necessary equipment upgrades. Costs for the upgraded dispensers will run approximately \$15,000 each. Without this help with financing and postponement of non-compliance penalties many stations will close because they cannot get credit during these difficult times. It simply does not make good sense right now to implement new environmental regulations that can hurt families, consumers and small businesses.

We are all in agreement that improving California's air is extremely important, but without flexibility for our small business owners on the enforcement of the April 1st deadline and the penalties that would ensue, we will suffer severe job and financial losses.

We urge you to support AB 96. There are already millions of Californians out of work and businesses trying to hang on without adding to the casualty list.

Sincerely,

Dennis DeCota
Executive Director