



**California Service Station and Automotive Repair Association**  
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April 4, 2007

The Honorable Pedro Nava  
Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: 916.319.2193

Re: AB 616 (Jones)     **SUPPORT Annual Smog Check for Older Vehicles**

Dear Assembly Member Nava:

The California Service Station and Automotive Repair Association (CSSARA) is a 34-year-old trade association representing independently owned automotive repair businesses throughout the state of California. Our membership is strongly in support of AB 616 (Jones), which would create an annual smog check for vehicles 15 years old or older, while exempting autos not currently required to participate in the existing biennial program.

We believe that Smog Check is one of California's key environmental and public health programs. Each year thousands of Californians die prematurely because of cancer, respiratory diseases and other ailments related to breathing air contaminated by automobile emissions. In some areas of the state, automobiles cause up to 50% of air pollution. We can protect the public health by strengthening the Smog Check program to reduce auto emissions. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) estimates that an annual smog check for older vehicle would reduce statewide emissions of hydrocarbons and NOx by 20.6 tons per day in 2014.

The older vehicles targeted by AB 616 are known to fail the Smog Check test in disproportionate numbers. AB 616 will protect consumers because the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) would be required to exempt from the annual inspection requirement those vehicles or classes of vehicles with historically high pass rates. AB 616 also directs proceeds generated by annual smog check certificates to the Consumer Assistance Program to provide repair assistance to low-income Californians.

Creating an annual smog check for older vehicles is a longstanding recommendation of the Inspection and Maintenance Review Committee, the official state body that advises CARB and BAR regarding improvements to the Smog Check program. Fourteen other states, including large states such as Texas and New York, have some form of annual smog check. Consumers whose cars are repaired to pass a smog check inspection can expect to enjoy 10% improved fuel efficiency (and an estimated \$200 in gas purchase savings per year). The increased fuel efficiency resulting from smog check repairs also directly reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

AB 616 is a win-win-win for the environment, public health and consumers. We urge your strong support of this vital measure.

Sincerely,

Dennis DeCota  
Executive Director, CSSARA

cc: Assembly Transportation Committee