



April 19, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 53 (Hueso) Natural gas vehicles.

Dear Chair Lara,

On behalf of the California Chapters of the Solid Waste Association of North America's (SWANA) Legislative Task Force (LTF), I am pleased to write to you in **SUPPORT** of **SB 53 (Hueso)**, which would align state law with federal law by adopting a vehicle weight exemption for natural gas vehicles by up to 2,000 pounds.

SWANA is the world's largest association of solid waste professionals (7,700 members). SWANA's California chapters represent more than 900 members. SWANA represents much of the publicly-owned and -operated solid waste management infrastructure in the state and the local governments responsible for implementing waste diversion and recycling programs. The LTF is responsible for representing the California Chapters on legislative and regulatory issues. SWANA is committed to advancing the practice of environmentally- and economically-sound management of municipal solid waste.

Natural gas vehicles produce significantly less greenhouse gas emissions than traditional gasoline or diesel-powered vehicles. Expanding the prevalence of natural gas vehicles would help California work towards the state's ambitious climate goals; however, natural gas fuel systems can add up to 2,000 pounds to a vehicle's weight compared to diesel or gasoline fuel systems. Additionally, because natural gas is less dense than gasoline or diesel, the vehicle must carry larger or additional tanks, which add even more weight. For heavy-duty vehicles that are already near state weight limits, the added weight presents a disincentive to installing natural gas fuel systems.

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015 provides an exemption to allow natural gas vehicles to exceed federal weight limits by up to 2,000 pounds, but the FAST Act applies only to federal interstate highways. Several other states have adopted the same exemption for state highways and local roads to help incentivize the transition from diesel to natural gas. As a leader on climate policy, California should do the same. **SB 53 (Hueso)** would encourage and allow solid waste haulers and others to use natural gas vehicles for regular operations.

For these reasons and more, SWANA is pleased to **SUPPORT SB 53 (Hueso)**. Thank you for your consideration of this important measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Schmelzer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jason Schmelzer
Partner
Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.

Cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Ben Hueso, 40th Senate District

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATES

Jason Schmelzer and Melissa Immel

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