

CASSANDRA JAMES
District 1, (707) 553-5363
MONICA BROWN
District 2, Vice-Chair, (707) 784-3031
WANDA WILLIAMS
District 3, Pro-Tem, (707) 784-6136
JOHN M. VASQUEZ
District 4, (707) 784-6129
MITCH MASHBURN
District 5, Chair, (707) 784-6030

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



SOLANO COUNTY

BILL EMLER
County Administrator
(707) 784-6100

675 Texas Street, Suite 6500
Fairfield, CA 94533-6342
Fax (707) 784-6665

www.solanocounty.com

April 4, 2025

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear
Chairwoman, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
1021 O Street, Ste. 7720
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT – SB 496 (Hurtado), Advanced Clean Fleets Regulations, Appeals Advisory Committee, Exemptions

Dear Chairwoman Blakespear,

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I write in support of SB 496, which would create much-needed flexibility for compliance with the state's zero emission vehicle (ZEV) fleet regulations.

Solano County is working diligently to upgrade fleet vehicles while ensuring that they continue to provide the many critical services residents rely on for their most essential daily needs. However, the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) rule sets ambitious compliance deadlines for fleets to transition to ZEVs, requiring access to adequate utility infrastructure, assurance of vehicle availability and technology to support a wide spectrum of highly specialized services that counties provide. While the ACF allows exemption requests when fleets cannot meet compliance timetables, the rule does not provide clarity on how exemptions are evaluated, nor does it provide an appeals process for denials by CARB.

Solano County supports SB 496 because it establishes an advisory committee to address the exemption and extension process for the CARB's ACF regulation. This is beneficial to the County because it provides a clear process for appealing denied exemptions, giving the regulated community recourse when vehicles or infrastructure aren't available in the expected compliance timeline. Additionally, SB 496 would update the emergency vehicle exemption, allowing vehicles that are used to respond to and support critical operations during emergencies and disasters to continue to protect our communities.

SB 496 also modifies the daily usage exemption to allow more flexibility for low-usage vehicles that might not be cost-effective for replacement under the rule. Finally, SB 496 removes requirements to purchase ZEVs before the infrastructure is available to use them, preserving precious budget flexibility for local governments at a time when every dollar counts. Overall, SB 496 achieves a fair and reasonable balance between emission requirements and the needs of California communities.

For these reasons, Solano County is pleased to support SB 496 and respectfully requests your "Aye" vote on this measure.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mitch N. Mashburn".

Mitch Mashburn, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear
SB 496 / Solano County Board of Supervisors

CC:

Members of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee
The Honorable Melissa Hurtado, California State Senator
The Honorable Christopher Cabaldon, California State Senator
The Honorable Lori Wilson, California State Assemblymember
The Honorable Solano County Board of Supervisors
Paragon Government Relations
Karen Lange, SYASL Partners, Inc.