

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

October 19, 2021

5-Signature Letter to Support the Medium- and Heavy-Duty Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Act of 2021

It is critical that the County of Los Angeles (County) take steps towards improving air quality by supporting the advancement and adoption of medium- and heavy-duty vehicle technologies that produce zero or near-zero emissions. Taking aggressive actions to reduce air pollution is essential for protecting public health and the quality of life for residents. Medium- and heavy-duty vehicles weigh more than 10,000 pounds and include school and public transit buses, as well as freight and other fleet vehicles. According to the California Energy Commission, these vehicles produce a disproportionately large share of the State’s greenhouse gas emissions and significant amounts of air pollution.

U.S. Representative Nanette Barragán, D-CA. and U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley, D-OR have introduced the “Medium- and Heavy-Duty Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Act of 2021” (Act) [H.R. 4440 and S. 2347]. This Act would require the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a rebate program promoting the purchase of electric medium- and heavy-duty vehicles and the installation of electric vehicle supply equipment for these

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vehicles. The upfront costs associated with electric truck purchase is a primary barrier to investment. However, financial incentives provided by this legislation will reduce the upfront capital costs associated with purchase, installation, labor, and permitting costs. With adequate incentives, total cost of ownership for an average electric truck could be made lower than an equivalent diesel or natural gas truck, while producing significantly fewer greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants.

Local, State, and Federal governments must work together toward a sustainable freight system to have a significant impact in reducing greenhouse emissions and air pollution. The LA County Sustainability Plan sets the goal of installing 60,000 zero-emission vehicle charging stations by 2025 and 70,000 by 2035, and that 100% of all new light-duty private vehicles will be zero emission vehicles by 2045. Additionally, on September 23, 2020 Governor Newsom issued an executive order to require all new cars sold in California to be zero-emission vehicles by 2035. If we are to meet the goals established by the LA County Sustainability Plan, it is vital to support Federal legislation that lowers barriers to achieving these important transitions to zero and near-zero emissions vehicles.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors send a five-signature letter in support of H.R. 4440 and S. 2347 to Rep. Barragán and Senator Merkley, with a copy to the County's Congressional Delegation, as well as U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla.

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