

# Athena Ara

To the California Air Resources Board,

I am writing to firmly oppose any proposal to add an additional \$1.00 per gallon to California gas prices. This is not a minor policy adjustment — this is a direct assault on the financial wellbeing of everyday Californians.

Gas prices in California are already among the highest in the nation, regularly exceeding \$5.00 per gallon. Millions of working-class residents, commuters, small business owners and families are already stretched dangerously thin. Pushing prices past \$6.00 per gallon is not a inconvenience — it is a hardship that limits people's ability to get to work, take their children to school, access medical care and participate in daily life.

I drive a fuel-efficient hybrid vehicle and even I feel this burden acutely. For the millions of Californians who do not have that luxury — or who cannot afford an electric vehicle — this increase would be devastating.

I also want to be direct about a fundamental issue of accountability: the California Air Resources Board is an unelected body. Its members are appointed, not chosen by the voters of California. That means the people most harmed by this decision — the general public who buys gasoline — have no direct democratic recourse against you. That reality makes it all the more critical that you exercise extreme restraint before imposing sweeping financial burdens of this magnitude on the population you serve.

California residents are not a revenue source to be tapped whenever regulatory goals need funding. We are people struggling with high costs of living on every front — housing, groceries, utilities and yes, gas. Enough is enough.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms: do NOT move forward with this proposal.

Respectfully but firmly,  
Athena Ara  
Los Angeles, CA