

Rachael Lemler

To the California Air Resources Board,

I am a California resident submitting a public comment regarding policies that may further increase gasoline costs.

California already has the highest gasoline prices in the United States, due in large part to the cumulative impact of state taxes, regulatory programs, and fuel formulation requirements. For many residents—particularly those in rural and inland communities—gasoline vehicles are not optional. They are necessary for commuting to work, transporting goods, maintaining farms and small businesses, and meeting everyday family needs.

Additional regulatory actions that increase fuel costs will disproportionately impact working families and lower-income households. Fuel costs function as a regressive expense that affects those who have the fewest alternatives and the least financial flexibility.

Before implementing policies that would further increase gasoline prices, I urge the Board to fully evaluate the cumulative economic burden that existing taxes and regulations have already placed on California residents. Any future actions should prioritize transparency, measurable environmental benefit, and accountability for how public funds are used.

Environmental goals should be pursued in a manner that does not impose excessive financial hardship on the very residents these policies are intended to serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,
Rachael Lemler
FarNorCal