

April 9, 2018

The Honorable Susan Eggman  
Assembly Member, District 13  
State Capitol, Room 4117  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2006, the Agricultural Worker Clean Transportation Investment Act - SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Eggman,

On behalf of the County of Monterey, I am writing in support of AB 2006, the Agricultural Worker Clean Transportation Investment Act, which will help ensure California continues to consistently provide agricultural vanpools to farmworkers living in disadvantaged or low-income communities across the state.

Monterey County is one of the nation's top agricultural producers, and agriculture is the County's largest economic and employment sector generating \$8.1 billion annually and providing 76,054 jobs (*Economic Contributions of Monterey County Agriculture, 2014*).

In 2015, transportation accounted for the largest sources of community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Monterey County, which was estimated to be approximately 44% of the overall GHG emissions under the U.S. Protocol for Accounting and Reporting GHG Emissions. Near-zero emissions vanpool and ride-sharing programs offer a unique way to provide affordable transportation options to significantly reduce GHG emissions and other criteria pollutants from passenger vehicles, as well as decrease the number of single-passenger vehicle trips to reduce traffic congestion.

California's agricultural workers are the backbone of the agricultural economy, and yet most come from extremely impoverished backgrounds. They often lack clean, safe, reliable transportation options that can transport them to the state's remote agricultural sites. As a result, many resort to driving antiquated, high-polluting, and unregistered vehicles because it is their only means to get to work.

Pursuant to Senate Bill 1275, the Charge Ahead Initiative, (de León, Statutes of 2014), the Air Resources Board created several clean vehicle access pilot projects for disadvantaged communities, including a vanpool pilot project for agricultural workers living in the San Joaquin Valley. To date, this program will help deploy near-zero-emission and zero-emission vans, helping achieve important greenhouse gas emission reductions not only through using a cleaner van technology, but by also encouraging agricultural workers to use a vanpool option over their old, high-polluting vehicle, thereby reducing the number of cars on the road. And most importantly, this helps reduce economic barriers for communities that need it the most - helping them get to work consistently so they can provide for their families.

While a great pilot project, it is overly restrictive on what communities are eligible for funding in the San Joaquin Valley. Furthermore, other low-income and disadvantaged communities throughout the state are not eligible for funding at all, despite great need. AB 2006 will ensure these communities have access to this grant program so that they too can enjoy clean, safe and reliable transportation options. Thank you for bringing this important legislation forward.

Sincerely,

Luis A. Alejo  
Chair, Board of Supervisors