



July 17, 2009

Honorable Ted Lieu
California State Assemblymember
State Capitol, Room 3173
1301 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX: 916.319.2153

**Clean Transportation
Technologies and Solutions**

www.calstart.org

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SUBJECT: ASSEMBLY BILL 1500 (LIEU) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Lieu,

CALSTART supports AB 1500 (Lieu), a bill to extend until 2014 the sunset date for use of high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes by single-occupant alternative fuel vehicles that meet required state and federal emission standards.

As a fuel- and technology-neutral organization dedicated to accelerating California's transition to clean transportation technologies, CALSTART supports smart policies that facilitate the deployment of clean vehicles. This bill will encourage fleet owners and individuals to purchase clean, low-emission vehicles powered by alternative fuels such as electricity and natural gas. Non-monetary incentives such as HOV lane access are a very cost-effective way for the State to reduce petroleum dependence and transportation-related emissions.

Alternative fuel, ultra low emission vehicles such as those powered by natural gas or electricity have not yet been adopted on a large scale in California. It is important to extend the current HOV access sunset date for these vehicles as incentives are still needed to encourage deployment. These incentives are in line with other planned and existing state policy initiatives designed to accelerate clean vehicle deployment.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

John Boesel
President and CEO