

DOCKETED

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Consumer Support Letter

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



May 22, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom

Governor, State Capitol

Sacramento, CA 95814

CC: Chair Hochschild, Commissioner Skinner

RE: Support for CEC Replacement Tire Efficiency Proceeding

Dear Governor Newsom,

As two of the nation's leading consumer voices, we write to express strong support for the California Energy Commission's (CEC) ongoing proceeding to adopt replacement tire efficiency standards.¹ These efficiency standards are a much-needed response to the affordability crisis, saving California drivers nearly a billion dollars in annual fuel costs.

CEC's proposal offers real financial benefits at a time when fuel costs are a top concern for California families. Under the tire efficiency standards, the average driver of a passenger vehicle would save \$179 in fuel costs over the life of a set of tires, against an estimated incremental cost of just \$26 per set.² The upfront investment pays for itself in just seven months, well within the typical four-year lifespan of a set of replacement tires. These savings figures assume a gas price of \$4.60 per gallon—well below what Californians pay today.³

The cost estimates in CEC's proposal are well-grounded. The incremental cost estimates are based on U.S. Department of Transportation and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rulemaking analysis developed with direct input from the largest U.S. tire manufacturers—making this a well vetted, industry-informed methodology.

Ultimately, this is a commonsense proposal. Tires meeting the proposed standards already exist today—both as replacement tires and as original equipment on new cars. California is not asking manufacturers to invent something new; CEC's proposal simply ensures that when drivers replace their tires, they get tires as good as the ones new cars come with.

¹ Docket 26-TIRE-01

² California's Proposed Replacement Tire Efficiency Program. Page 6. Found at: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=269612&DocumentContentId=106704>

³ Ibid.

CEC's prompt action is more important than ever, as the federal government attempts to erase vehicle fuel economy standards that save California drivers thousands of dollars per vehicle. Along with gasoline prices being through the roof, now is the time to help protect drivers from rising costs with a long overdue tire efficiency standard. This is especially important as some studies suggest that the gasoline burden for low-income households that earn less than 200% of the federal poverty is around 14% of total income.⁴

We thank you for your leadership and support for commonsense tire efficiency standards that advance affordability. We ask that CEC move quickly to complete the rulemaking to deliver these benefits for all Californians.

Respectfully,

Chris Harto
Manager, Sustainability Advocacy
Consumer Reports

Karim Marshall
Director of Climate and Energy Policy
Consumer Federation of America

⁴ "Understanding Transportation Energy Burdens." ACEEE. Found at:
<https://www.aceee.org/white-paper/2021/05/understanding-transportation-energy-burdens>