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Comment Received From: Rebecca Breuer

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Please Support Investments in Hydrogen Fueling Infrastructure

Dear Commissioner Monahan and Members of the Clean Transportation Advisory Committee,

I drive a hydrogen fuel cell vehicle (a Toyota Mirai). It is my only vehicle and I've had it for a year and a half now. I chose it for both economical and environmental reasons, but unfortunately, I did so without doing enough research on the barriers involved, specifically, due to the poor infrastructure. Since purchasing the car, the price of hydrogen has skyrocketed to unaffordable prices. Yes, the Mirai came with a \$15,000 fuel card, but I expected that to last 6 years, which would make it very affordable. However, now with the rising cost of hydrogen at the stations, I will be lucky if it lasts even 3 years, after which I will have to sell the car (at a huge loss). These cars have no resale value and you can find them used, in perfect condition, for 1/6 the cost for the new one off the lot (which I purchased).

Additionally, the pumps that are in existence are constantly down and in need of servicing. You never know if you will be able to fill your tank or not when you pull up to the station. This would be okay if there were numerous stations to choose from. However, it often means traveling for 30+ minutes just to get fuel. The lack of stations also means that I cannot drive my car to all the places I would like to travel in the State. I can't even drive to LA to visit my family because there's only one station between the bay and LA and I cannot risk getting stranded if the station happens to be down when I arrive (you can get 400 miles on one tank; not enough to trust getting to LA without stalling).

Hydrogen fueling has numerous advantages over electric. When stations work and the price is affordable (as it is in numerous other countries), it is a simple process to fill the tank, with it taking all of 5 minutes for a fill. For those with electric vehicles, it averages 30 minutes or more to charge. How is that going to work as more and more people buy electric and need to fill up on longer road trips? You either have to have thousands of pumps at each rest stop, or else everyone is going to be waiting in line for literal hours for their turn to recharge their batteries. Hydrogen is also better for the environment, as the only waste product is clean water. All the electricity needed to fuel electric cars requires fossil fuel consumption and you're left with the electric batteries that are discarded and pose an environmental threat; leaching toxic metals into the environment.

I respectfully urge the Commission and Advisory Committee to reconsider their stance and to reinstate support for the light-duty hydrogen fueling network. The funds previously earmarked for light-duty hydrogen stations should be reallocated to fulfill their original purpose, and future funding should be secured to ensure California meets its goal of 200 passenger stations.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Breuer