[Date]

[Name of Representative or Senator]

**RE: [State] Needs a Clean Fuel Standard**

Dear ,

I’m writing as a climate-conscious citizen concerned about the effects of fossil fuel emissions from transportation on our communities and planet. According to the US EPA, transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the country.[[1]](#footnote-1) Over 90% of transportation fuel is petroleum based,[[2]](#footnote-2) and when combusted releases not only carbon dioxide (CO2) but also short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP) such as methane and black carbon, which contribute to global warming and negatively impact public health.

To address both GHG emissions and public health concerns, I urge you to consider a Clean Fuel Standard (CFS) policy for our state. A CFS is the leading “fuel switching” policy, one that holistically addresses the need to decarbonize transportation and build infrastructure for zero-emissions vehicles.

A CFS is not a quota system and does not choose winners and losers. It is a technologically neutral, performance-based program under which fuel producers generate credits or deficits according to where the “Carbon Intensity” (emissions level) of their fuels falls in relation to an emissions benchmark. The further below the benchmark “CI” a fuel is, the more credits it generates; the further above, the more deficits. To clear their deficits and meet their obligations under the standard, suppliers of high-emissions fuels buy credits from producers of low-emissions fuels—effectively providing revenue-neutral support for production of clean fuels. Clean energy technology providers can spread revenue generated from credit sales throughout their energy and infrastructure supply chains, resulting in additional investment not just in electric vehicles but also in charging infrastructure.

Clean fuels won’t just reduce vehicle emissions but will also improve air quality for disadvantaged communities, which are often located along transportation corridors and are exposed to particulate matter (PM) like black carbon, which contributes to respiratory and cardiovascular disease, cancer, and birth defects.[[3]](#footnote-3)

In addition, a CFS would support the use of renewable natural gas (RNG), which not only displaces fossil fuels, but contributes directly to GHG reductions by capturing methane emissions from biogenic sources (farms, landfills, wastewater treatment plants) that would otherwise escape into the atmosphere. Measured on a 20-year basis, methane is 85x more efficient than CO2 at trapping heat in the atmosphere[[4]](#footnote-4), and the EPA[[5]](#footnote-5), Environmental Defense Fund[[6]](#footnote-6) and International Energy Agency[[7]](#footnote-7) agree that reducing methane emissions is the most cost-effective way to have a significant impact on climate change.

It's important that we adopt policies that will make a tangible impact in our communities and for future generations, so I urge you to consider a CFS as the best step forward for our state.

Sincerely,

[Name]

1. <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/inventory-us-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-sinks> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/03/ar4_wg3_full_report-1.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2013-12/documents/black-carbon-fact-sheet_0.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Intergovernmental Panel On Climate Change (2021). [Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis](https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6/wg1/IPCC_AR6_WGI_FullReport.pdf), page 1017. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. EPA Website, Importance of Methane. <https://www.epa.gov/gmi/importance-methane> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Environmental Defense Fund. Methane, A crucial opportunity in the climate fight. <https://www.edf.org/climate/methane-crucial-opportunity-climate-fight>. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. IEA. Curtailing Methane Emissions from Fossil Fuel Operations: Pathways to a 75% cut by 2030. October 2021. Page 10. <https://www.iea.org/reports/curtailing-methane-emissions-from-fossil-fuel-operations>. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)