



June 22, 2022

Governor Newsom
 State Capitol Building, First Floor
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Nancy Skinner
 1021 O Street, Suite 8630
 Sacramento, CA 95814

President pro Tem Toni Atkins
 1021 O Street, Suite 8518
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Member Philip Ting
 1021 O Street, Suite 8230
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Speaker Anthony Rendon
 1021 O Street, Suite 8330
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Price Relief Should Not Only be for Drivers

Dear Governor Newsom, Senators Atkins and Skinner and Assembly Members Rendon and Ting:

We write in support of price relief for Californians most in need during this time of rising inflation and economic uncertainty. Our organizations favor relief more along the lines of the legislature’s proposal, which would provide \$8 billion to Californians to mitigate the impacts of high prices. We urge you to finalize inflation and price relief through the tax system, rather than only to registered vehicle owners.

This year, the state’s fiscal health presents a unique opportunity for state leaders to provide targeted relief to the Californians most harmed by rising costs and the ongoing pandemic. The Legislature’s proposal wisely targets families in need through either the CalWorks and SSI/SSP programs or through providing payments of \$200 per taxpayer and dependent for single filers of \$125,000 or less and joint filers of \$250,000 or less. The Legislature’s proposal also gives California residents who do not fall into these specified categories the ability to apply for a rebate through another route, which addresses one of the Governor’s concerns regarding broad eligibility.

The Legislature should set aside the Governor's \$11.5 billion proposal to give \$400 debit cards to vehicle owners for up to two registered vehicles, which works against the State's climate, equity, and environmental goals. Everyone is impacted by gasoline price spikes, whether we own cars or not, since costs ripple throughout the rest of the economy through increased shipping costs of goods and materials, for example. People are struggling right now and lower-income people, who pay a disproportionate share of their income for housing and transportation, are hurting the most.

Instead of debit cards, we urge you to maximize investments in public transit, active transportation, zero-emissions vehicles, and EV charging. We appreciate investments to date, including the Governor's March proposal to provide free transit for three months and expedite electric vehicle funding, but more is needed to help transit systems recover from the pandemic, and to combat transportation emissions, the largest source of greenhouse gas pollution in California.

Instead, we urge you to work together to make a transformative investment in transportation affordability and giving Californians more ways to opt out of gasoline-burning vehicles.

We support a \$2 billion investment in the State's successful and over-subscribed Active Transportation Program to deliver more local projects that make it easier and safer for California to walk and bike for local trips.

The Legislature should go further than the Governor's proposal for public transit by including \$750 million for fare discounts, \$600 million for fare-free transit for youth, \$1.15 billion to help local agencies restore transit service to pre-COVID levels and should provide free transit passes statewide for three months.

We also underscore the recommendations described in the ["Invest In Clean Air"](#) letter submitted by the Charge Ahead California Campaign.

We appreciate you working together to reject proposals that deepen the state's reliance on polluting fuels and reward the oil industry at a time of record profits. We stand ready to support the Legislature's alternative to protect the people of the state who pay disproportionate shares of their income for transportation and housing, and who are struggling the most.

Thank you for your leadership and efforts to keep California on track in curbing climate emissions.

Sincerely,



Victoria Rome
CA Government Affairs Director
NRDC



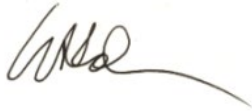
Marc Carrel
President & CEO
Breathe Southern California



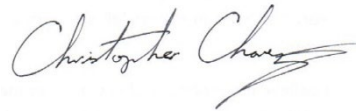
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