ASSEMBLYMEMBER DR. COREY A. JACKSON

60TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

AB 72: Electric Vehicle Economic Opportunity Zone

BILL SUMMARY

AB 72 would require the Labor Workforce and Development Agency (LWDA) to administer, upon appropriation, an Electric Vehicle Economic Opportunity Zone (EVEOZ) for the County of Riverside, in order to make electric vehicle manufacturing jobs and education more accessible.

BACKGROUND

On September 23, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order (EO) No. N-79-20, setting new statewide goals for phasing out gasoline-powered vehicles. Under the EO, 100 percent of in-state sales of new passenger cars and trucks will be zero-emission by 2035 and 100 percent of medium-and heavy-duty vehicles in the State will be zero-emission by 2045, where feasible.[1] CARB, the Energy Commission, the Public Utilities Commission, and other agencies have been directed to accelerate deployment of affordable fueling and charging options for zero-emission vehicles in ways that serve all communities, particularly low-income and disadvantaged ones.

In August of 2022, CARB adopted standards intended to further the EO and set interim targets.[2] In the lead up to the 2035 deadline, 35 percent of new passenger vehicles sold by 2026 will be zero-emission and 68 percent will be by 2030. Transportation is the State's top source of planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions.[3] These mandates are an enormous step towards reducing dependence on fossil fuels and meeting our climate goals.

PROBLEM

The Inland Empire, which comprises Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, is a major economic hub with a rapidly growing population.[4] Despite this, its workers earn less than statewide averages, and there are fewer college graduates than in most metro areas. Local leaders are looking to reduce pollution and diversify the workforce. This unique combination of factors creates an opportunity for the County of Riverside to reap significant benefits as the state transitions to zero-emission vehicles.

SOLUTION

AB 72 proposes that internal combustion engine to EV conversion car companies develop in Riverside County to help contribute to the growing need for CA EV's, provide training and jobs to the citizens of Inland Region and Riverside County which will prepare individuals to take part in California's current and future green economy.

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[1] Governor Newsom Announces California Will Phase Out Gasoline-Powered Cars & Drastically Reduce Demand for Fossil Fuel in California's Fight Against Climate Change | Governor of California

[2] Resolution 22-12 (ca.gov)

[3] Decarbonizing California Transportation by 2045 | UC Davis

[4] In the Inland Empire challenges breed opportunities (calmatters.org)

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