



March 18, 2019

The Honorable Chris Holden
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5132
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: AB 755 (Holden) – Tire Tax - Oppose

Dear Assembly member Holden:

On behalf of the above-listed organizations we are writing to respectfully oppose AB 755, which would increase the current California tire fee from \$1.75 to \$3.25. The additional revenue would go to municipal storm-water projects that prevent or remediate zinc pollutants.

We recognize the threat to aquatic life and public health by storm-water runoff from rain that runs off surfaces such as rooftops, street signs, lights, benches, paved streets, highways, etc carrying with it pollutants such as oil, pesticides, herbicides, sediment, trash, bacteria and metals which then can drain untreated directly into a local stream, lake or bay.

We do not understand why the focus is on tires; when they contain a minimal amount of zinc in order to accelerate the vulcanization (making rubber durable). Many outdoor metal surfaces made with galvanized steel and coated with liquid zinc for corrosion protection (e.g. street signs, lights, benches, etc) also contribute zinc pollutants into the storm-water runoff. Zinc is contained in countless consumer products. Any new fees and taxes for storm-water projects should be shared fairly among all the zinc surfaces/products that cause pollutants to enter storm runoff.

Most troublesome with the proposal is that this tax will fall hardest on those with the least ability to pay, namely low-income individuals and hard-working families. AB 755 institutes a “regressive” tax that, combined with the current tire fee, will increase the cost of a set of new tires by \$13.00.

Tire retailers have countless stories of potential customers delaying tire purchases when they find out the cost of new tires and the add-on fees (the current \$1.75 fee and disposal fee). They have watched low-income consumers deciding to defer their tire purchases and simply drive away on dangerous balding tires. The bill is only going to worsen the problem and fails to share the tax burden fairly.

Finally, we believe that other sources of revenue should be considered for storm-water projects including local funding and state Prop 1 Water Bond, not just a tire tax.

For the foregoing reasons we must respectfully oppose AB 755.

Sincerely,



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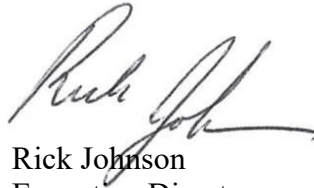
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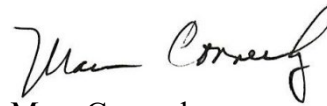
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