

CAPITOL OFFICE
1021 O STREET
SUITE 7230
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4001

DISTRICT OFFICES
11230 GOLD EXPRESS DRIVE
SUITE 304
GOLD RIVER, CA 95670
TEL (916) 464-4201

1320 YUBA STREET
SUITE 102
REDDING, CA 96001
TEL (530) 224-7001

California State Senate

SENATOR
BRIAN DAHLE
FIRST SENATE DISTRICT



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NATURAL RESOURCES
& WATER
TRANSPORTATION

October 2, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request for Veto of AB 251 (Ward)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I respectfully request your veto of Assembly Bill 251 (Ward), which requires the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to convene a task force to consider establishing a weight fee for passenger vehicles.

AB 251 will increase transportation costs for many Californians and will disproportionately harm low-income families and struggling businesses that rely on large vehicles. California drivers already pay the highest gas prices in the nation and spend more on transportation costs than any other household expense besides housing itself. AB 251 is misguided and poorly thought-out policy that does nothing but harm those that are already struggling to pay the bills.

It is hypocritical that AB 251 requires that the CTC shall give special consideration to zero-emission vehicles due to existing incentives and environmental goals. The author claims that the goal of the task force is to provide funds for pedestrian safety projects. If that is true, why are the heaviest vehicles being given special consideration? If this bill is truly about pedestrian safety, the heaviest vehicles on the road should be equally included regardless of our environmental goals and incentives.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your veto of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Dahle".

Brian Dahle, Senator
1st Senate District