



# AB 493: Clean Car Discount for California Families

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Sponsor: **Union of Concerned Scientists**

California Climate Choices

A Fact Sheet of the Union of Concerned Scientists

## Making Cleaner Cars More Affordable

California can significantly reduce global warming pollution by making cleaner cars and trucks more affordable. The California Clean Car Discount program does that by providing one-time rebates on the purchase of new cars, trucks and SUVs that emit relatively low levels of global warming pollution. The rebates are funded by surcharges on the purchase of dirtier new vehicles.

UCS engineers calculate that the Clean Car Discount program can wipe out nearly a *third* of California's global warming pollution from cars and trucks—over 75 million tons per year by 2030. This would be equivalent to taking *almost 20 million vehicles off the road.*

## Transportation is California's #1 Source of Global Warming Pollution

Programs such as the Clean Car Discount are needed because transportation accounts for more than 40% of the state's global warming emissions.

If global warming continues at its current rate, California will face a sharp rise in extreme heat, a less reliable water supply, and decreased air quality—which could have a significant impact on public health and the economy. Fortunately, the most severe consequences of global warming can be avoided if emissions are reduced in time.

## How the Clean Car Discount Works

If AB 493 is passed by the state legislature and signed into law by the governor, Californians will be able to receive rebates of up to \$2,500 on the purchase of clean cars, trucks, and SUVs. The amount of the rebate is based on how much global warming pollution the vehicle emits—the less pollution, the higher the rebate. The average rebate or surcharge will fall somewhere between

\$900 and \$1,450. A significant portion of vehicles, including many family-oriented minivans and smaller SUVs, will fall into a “zero dollar-band” receiving neither a surcharge nor rebate. Vehicles that emit high levels of global warming pollution will have surcharges of up to \$2,500. The whole program is self-financing and applies only when you purchase a new vehicle.

## Consumer Choice

All of the major consumer organizations in California support the Clean Car Discount program. Consumer Action calls the program “a creative approach to vehicle emission reductions that protects consumer choice.”

## Clean Car Discount Can Benefit Low-Income Californians

The Clean Car Discount program includes exemptions for vehicles purchased for small business purposes, paratransit, and low-income Californians. In fact many low and moderate income residents who buy new vehicles will benefit from AB 493 because the less expensive new cars and trucks, on average, receive the greatest rebates.

### Median Retail Price of New Vehicles

Those Receiving Rebates=\$22,496  
Those W/O Rebate or Surcharge=\$27,623  
Those Receiving Surcharge \$38,270

## Californians Support the Clean Car Discount

According to a 2006 poll\*, 60% of likely voters support the Clean Car Discount program, with an overwhelming majority from every region, income level, and political affiliation indicating support.

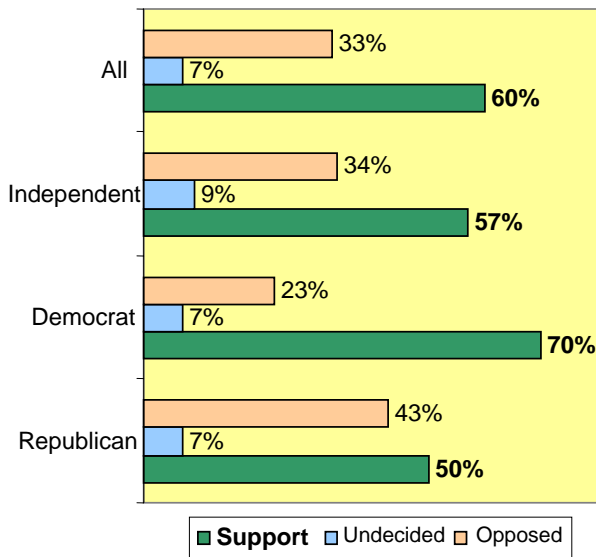
\* Fairbanks, Maslin, Maullin, and Associates, 2006



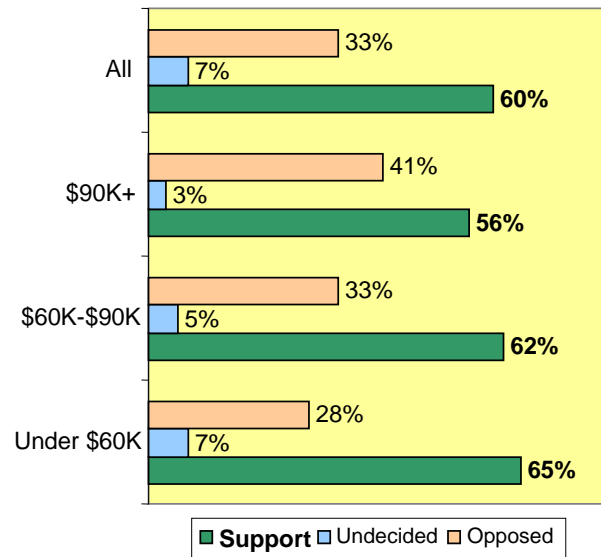
Union of Concerned Scientists

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## Public Support by Political Party



## Public Support by Income Level



### AB 493 Endorsers (as of 01-09-2008)

#### Environmental

- African American Environmentalist Association
- American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
- Audubon California
- California Coastal Coalition
- California League of Conservation Voters
- California Native Plant Society
- Clean Power Campaign
- Coalition for Clean Air
- Earth Day Los Angeles
- Earthjustice
- Energy Independence Now
- Environment California
- Environmental Defense
- Environmental Defense Center
- Environmental Working Group
- Friends of the Earth / Bluewater Network
- KyotoUSA
- National Hispanic Environmental Council
- Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
- Planning and Conservation League
- Sierra Club California
- San Diego Audubon Society
- San Diego Environmental Foundation
- Steven and Michele Kirsch Foundation
- Transportation and Land Use Coalition

#### Environmental Justice

- Pacoima Beautiful

#### Political

- Democracy for America – Marin
- Democracy for America – Orange County
- Democratic Club of Claremont
- Democratic Club of the Pasadena Foothills
- Democratic Party of Orange County
- Democratic Party San Fernando Valley
- Environmental Caucus of the CA Democratic Party
- Hubert H. Humphrey Democratic Club
- La Cañada Democratic Club
- Los Angeles Democratic County Central Committee
- Julie Ruelas, Mayor of San Fernando, CA
- Northeast Democratic Club
- Republicans for Environmental Protection
- Sacramento for Democracy
- San Bernardino County Democratic Central Committee
- San Fernando Valley Mexican American Political Association (SFVMAPA)

- Valley Democrats United

#### Labor

- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO (AFSCME)

#### Consumer

- California Public Interest Research Group
- Consumer Action
- Consumer Federation of California
- Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety
- Consumers Union
- Latino Issues Forum

#### Business

- Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility (ADPSR)
- Better World Club
- Better World Group
- CA Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition
- Conserv Fuel
- Environmental Entrepreneurs
- EV Rental Cars
- New Voice of Business
- Sempra Energy (SoCal Gas Company/SDG&E)
- Silicon Valley Leadership Group
- Working Assets

#### Public Sector

- Bay Area Air Quality Management District
- Calif. Air Pollution Control Officers Assoc. (CAPCOA)
- Santa Clara Valley Water District
- South Coast Air Quality Management District

#### Public Health and Science

- American Lung Association of California
- Breast Cancer Fund
- Breathe California
- California Science Teachers Association (CSTA)
- California Thoracic Society
- Our Children's Earth
- Physicians for Social Responsibility – Los Angeles
- Physicians for Social Responsibility – SF Bay Area
- Union of Concerned Scientists

#### Faith-Based

- California Interfaith Power and Light
- Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL) of Southern California
- The Interfaith Environmental Council (Los Angeles)
- Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment