

# California State Senate

SENATE MINORITY LEADER BRIAN W. JONES  
FORTIETH SENATE DISTRICT



September 12, 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 write to request your veto of Assembly Bill 251, which requires the California Transportation Commission to convene a task force to consider the consequences of imposing a weight fee on passenger vehicles.

While the author and majority party may be introducing this bill under the guise of forming a “task force,” the real agenda is not hidden – they want to see more costs passed on to everyday Californians.

The average cost of registering a vehicle in California has increased more than 75% over the past seven years, and is currently over \$300. California drivers already pay the highest gas prices in the country, despite driving on some of the worst roads. Families spend more on transportation costs than any other household expense, aside from housing itself. This weight fee will disproportionately hurt lower-income Californians who need SUVs and mini-vans, including big families with kids. It will also place another burden on already struggling small businesses that require these larger vehicles.

Now is simply not the time to consider increasing transportation costs for working families.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Jones".

Brian W. Jones  
Senate Minority Leader  
40<sup>th</sup> Senate District