



August 4, 2021

The Honorable Anthony Portantino, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
California State Capitol, Room 2206  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Health Groups Support AB 1346 (Berman) – Zero-Emission Small Off-Road Engines**

Dear Chair Portantino and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the undersigned public health organizations, we write to express our support for Assembly Bill 1346 (AB 1346, Berman), which would support the transition to zero-emission landscaping and other small off-road engines.

Due in large part to the transportation sector, and increasingly due to the small off-road engine (SORE) category, Californians continue to face the most difficult air pollution challenges in the United States. The American Lung Association's *State of the Air 2021* report found that California is home to seven of the ten most ozone-polluted cities in the United States and six of the ten most impacted by particle pollution. The SORE category now creates more ozone-forming pollution than is generated by the on-road passenger vehicle sector, and is expected to grow significantly in the decade ahead as emission controls have not kept pace with the increasing zero-emission technology market for lawn, garden and other SORE equipment.

California's poor air quality contributes to a wide range of negative health outcomes, including asthma attacks, heart attacks and strokes, lung cancer and thousands of premature deaths annually in California. Children, seniors, people with existing lung and heart illness, communities of color and lower-income communities are among the populations more at risk due to increased vulnerabilities and/or exposures to pollution and associated health outcomes.

AB 1346 would require the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to adopt cost-effective and technologically feasible regulations by July 1, 2022 to prohibit engine exhaust and evaporative emissions from new SORE equipment as of January 1, 2024. The bill would also require CARB to identify and, to the extent feasible, make available rebates and incentive funding to support the transition to zero-emission SORE operations.

For these reasons, our organizations support AB 1346 and view the legislation as an important opportunity to support state and local clean air and climate efforts. Please contact Will Barrett at [william.barrett@lung.org](mailto:william.barrett@lung.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Catherine Dodd PhD, RN, Policy Advisor  
**Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments**

Will Barrett, Senior Director, Clean Air Advocacy  
**American Lung Association**

Kevin Hamilton, RRT  
**Central California Asthma Collaborative**

Joel Ervice, Associate Director  
**Regional Asthma Management & Prevention (RAMP)**