



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

August 22, 2024

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker of the California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 3179 (Carrillo) — SUPPORT
As Amended June 27, 2024**

Dear Speaker Rivas,

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we support Assembly Bill 3179, authored by Assembly Member Juan Carrillo. This measure would exempt certain telecommunications vehicles used by emergency telecommunications providers from the provisions of the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulations until January 1, 2030. RCRC is an association of forty rural California counties and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those member counties.

RCRC member counties have suffered numerous emergencies in the recent past due to climate change, including catastrophic wildfires and disastrous flooding events. During situations, it is imperative that communications methods be as uninterrupted as possible to facilitate evacuations and other emergency actions. During these types of emergencies, rural communities in particular are prone to power outages, sometimes for several days as utilities attempt to prevent fires and other disasters from spreading even further. Fast-tracking requirements to electrify telecom vehicles that are used in emergency events will endanger vital communications services during California's most vulnerable moments.

AB 3179 will address this emergency communication challenge by including bucket trucks used by telecom providers during emergency operations from the provisions of the ACF regulations until January 1, 2030, rightfully recognizing them as emergency service vehicles. This is crucial to allow for the use of current vehicles while the electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing industry catches up to the demand for emergency vehicles at a reasonable price point. It also allows the state of California more time to

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deploy EV charging capability and address the reliability of the electrical grid statewide so that EVs can remain reliably charged even during emergency situations.

For the above reasons, RCRC supports AB 3179 and urges your aye vote. Please do not hesitate to contact me at sheaton@rcrcnet.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Staci Heaton", written in a cursive style.

STACI HEATON
Senior Policy Advocate

cc: The Honorable Juan Carrillo, California State Assembly
Members of the California State Assembly