



February 25, 2025

The Honorable Shannon Grove
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 305
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for SB 712

Dear Senator Grove,

I am writing on behalf of the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) to express our strong support for Senate Bill (SB) 712 (Grove). This important legislation seeks to fully exempt collector motor vehicles at least 35 model years old from the biennial smog check program, provided they are insured as collector vehicles.

Representing the \$52 billion specialty automotive aftermarket industry, SEMA is a trade association based in Diamond Bar made up of approximately 7,000 mostly small businesses nationwide, including 1,066 in California, that manufacture, market, and sell specialty automotive aftermarket products, including restoration, appearance, performance, comfort, convenience, and technology products for motor vehicles.

California has a thriving specialty automotive aftermarket industry. This industry significantly contributes to the state's economy, generating \$40.44 billion in economic impact. This translates to supporting 149,325 jobs, \$13.47 billion in total wages and benefits, and \$6.16 billion in taxes paid.

SB 712 recognizes these vehicles' minimal impact on overall emissions and air quality, given their limited use and the care with which they are maintained. Currently, gas—and diesel-powered vehicles manufactured in 1975 or earlier are exempt from the smog check program. Extending the exemption to include vehicles at least 35 model years old is a logical and necessary step to further support the classic car community. A small fraction (1.5%) of the vehicles on the road in California meet the age requirement in the proposal, and even fewer would be eligible for a collectors' insurance policy as insurers also consider factors like its condition, historical significance, market value, and how it is stored and used.

Classic and collector vehicles are a cherished part of our automotive heritage. These vehicles are well-maintained, infrequently driven, and often showcased at car shows and events celebrating automotive history. Historically, California has acknowledged the unique status of older vehicles by providing exemptions from certain emissions requirements. As generations progress, vehicles that were once considered modern will inevitably become classics. This natural evolution underscores the importance of updating our

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1575 S. Valley Vista Dr.
Diamond Bar, CA 91765-3914

909-610-2030

E-mail: sema@sema.org
Website: www.sema.org

regulations to reflect the changing landscape of automotive history. By recognizing that newer cars will eventually hold the same cultural and historical significance as older models, SB 712 ensures that future classics are preserved and celebrated.

It is important to note that SEMA has a long history of advocating for reasonable and balanced regulations that protect both the environment and the rights of automotive enthusiasts. We have sponsored similar legislation in the past, such as AB 467 (Grayson, 2021), recognizing that collector vehicles represent a small fraction of the total vehicle population and have a negligible impact on air quality. Additionally, the SEMA Garage in Diamond Bar provides SEMA member business with cutting-edge tools and resources to ensure their products meet regulatory standards. This facility plays a pivotal role in helping the automotive aftermarket industry innovate while maintaining compliance with environmental regulations.

SB 712 provides a practical solution that respects the passion of car collectors while maintaining California's commitment to environmental stewardship. The state can continue to honor its automotive heritage without compromising its air quality goals by exempting these older vehicles from the smog check program.

We urge the Legislature to pass SB 712 and support the classic car community in California. Thank you for your leadership on this issue and your continued support of automotive enthusiasts. If you have any questions or require additional information, please call (909) 978-6717 or e-mail me at victorm@sema.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victor Muñoz', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Victor Muñoz
Senior Manager, State Government Affairs
Specialty Equipment Market Association