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California Hydrogen Car Owners Association (CHCOA) Proton Monthly – August 2023

August 31, 2023

California has, “made a promise to the industry and to the people who bought these cars that we would commit to building out this platform and ensuring its viability as a really meaningful component of our decarbonization strategy, and I think it is fully reasonable to doubt the integrity of that promise at this point.”

- State Senator Josh Newman, speaking about the lack of a robust and reliable hydrogen fueling infrastructure in California at the 8/23/23 hearing, “Are We There Yet? How Much Longer? California’s Progress on Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure”.

It can be reasonably argued that this month truly lived up to the billing of a time of “Despair and Optimism”. On the despair side, we saw the worst H₂ refueling station uptime since Sept. 2021; at one point 65% of stations were offline. We saw, and ourselves experienced, the tremendous frustration of FCEV drivers, hearing often, “Love the car, but the fueling hassles have become impossible.”

Still, it was a month of great optimism. As reflected by the quote above, there is an understanding of our frustration, and strong support for fixing the problem, from Chairperson Newman and the other Senators of the *Select Committee on Transitioning to a Zero-Emission Energy Future*.

Bobbie and I completed our Discovery Road Trip (photos below) with a meeting with Erik Brahms, of the office of Assemblywomen Megan Dahle, last Monday. In addition to that meeting, we had the opportunity to talk to Tadashi Ogitsu (H₂ Researcher and FCEV driver), Andrew Martinez (CARB), Cory Shumaker (Hyzon and FCEV driver), Alexis Merino (City of Lancaster), Keith Malone (RE Plus and FCEV driver), Erica Lucia (Office of Senator Newman), Jackie Birdsall (Toyota and FCEV driver), Steve Mirkin (FCEV driver), Bill Elrick (Hydrogen Fuel Cell Partnership and FCEV driver).

Since we have been busy with our Road Trip this month, we were not able to get a full newsletter complete before the end of the month. Stay tuned in the coming months for reports and features on all of the above, plus more detail on other reasons for great optimism, including the [UC Davis Study](#) (and the need for Light Duty/Heavy Duty collaboration), the possibility of an H₂ Advisory Committee, the improving prospects for speedy station permitting, the [South Korea Story](#) (If we build it, they will come), the intriguing history of Governor Schwarzenegger’s involvement in FCEVs, and much more!

The bottom line, and the most important take-away that we can leave you with is...it is up to us. **Please** contact your Lawmakers today. This can be as easy as signing the petition on the California Hydrogen Coalition [website](#).

- Greg and Bobbie Cane, greg@h2tonps.org or bobbie@h2tonps.org

