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May 27, 2026

The Honorable Lori D. Wilson, Chair
Assembly Transportation Committee
1020 N Street, Suite 112
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1392 (Cortese) – Smog check: exemption: collector motor vehicles. – Support (as amended on 5/14/26)

Dear Chair Wilson,

I am writing to inform you of my support for SB 1392, which aims to modernize smog check exemptions for classic and collector motor vehicles. I previously supported SB 712 and appreciate these efforts on behalf of California car enthusiasts and a culture and industry that fuels our state's economy.

According to the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA), the aftermarket industry alone generates more than \$40 billion in economic impact, supporting approximately 150,000 jobs, \$14 billion in wages and benefits, and \$6 billion in taxes.

SB 1392 would redefine collector motor vehicle to mean a vehicle that is at least 35 years old, is used primarily in shows, parades, charitable functions, and historical exhibitions, is not used as the owner's primary mode of transportation, and is insured as a collector motor vehicle, as specified. The bill would exempt a collector motor vehicle manufactured before the 1981 model year from the requirement to obtain a certificate of compliance or noncompliance and, provides a pathway for qualifying collector vehicles to receive relief from the state's biennial smog check requirement, requires collector-vehicle insurance with proof at registration, and phases in eligibility by one model year each year, beginning January 1, 2028, until the final extension takes effect on and after January 1, 2032.

This exemption addresses challenges classic car owners face. Maintaining compliance is increasingly difficult as fewer smog stations are equipped to test older vehicles. According to SEMA, only 7% of California smog checks are performed on pre-OBD-II vehicles, and many STAR-certified stations test fewer than one of these vehicles per day, making it cost prohibitive for smog shops to maintain the specialized equipment needed to test older vehicles.

For those who have a passion for restoring classic or vintage vehicles, California's stringent testing requirements often require expensive modifications that may compromise the historical authenticity of these automotive gems. These hurdles have led many enthusiasts to relocate to more car-friendly states like Arizona, Texas, and Nevada.

"I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain (what I consider the most enviable of all titles), the character of an honest man."

- George Washington -

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SB 1392 (CORTESE) – SMOG CHECK: EXEMPTION: COLLECTOR MOTOR VEHICLES. – SUPPORT (AS
AMENDED ON 5/14/26)

Classic cars are typically driven only on special occasions, weekends or to car shows, minimizing their environmental impact compared to daily-driven vehicles. SB 1392 updates current law to reflect how collector vehicles are carefully maintained and minimally operated.

I reaffirm my support for this important effort – spurred by SB 712 known as Leno’s Law – carried forward by SB 1392, which will make it clear that California is a classic car friendly state – some consider the birthplace of hot rodding – and supports our state’s aftermarket parts industry worth billions to our economy.

Sincerely,



Robert Rickman
Supervisor, Fifth District
San Joaquin County

C:
San Joaquin County Legislative Delegation
San Joaquin County CAO
San Joaquin County COB
Senator Dave Cortese, Senate District 15

DTG: 14726/01ST

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