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California State Senate

SENATOR
TONY STRICKLAND
THIRTY-SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT



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Thursday, August 20, 2026

Chair David Hochschild
California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Hochschild,

Both Democrats and Republicans agree that the number one issue facing California families and businesses is affordability and the high cost of living. Instead of prioritizing the affordability needs of Californians, the California Energy Commission (CEC) has taken action that will make life more expensive for working families and businesses. California drivers already pay the highest gas tax in the nation. At a time when families are struggling to make ends meet, the CEC approved a new mandate that will force struggling families to purchase more expensive replacement tires. Even more appalling is that the CEC approved the mandate despite acknowledging that it will eliminate an estimated 70% of the tires currently sold in California by 2033, a fact the CEC has not denied, [as reported by KCRA](#). Advocates for the tire industry have warned that the increase in costs could ultimately amount to several hundred dollars.

For more than two decades, California has seen more people leave for other states than move here. People are leaving our beautiful state in droves because hardworking Californians are unable to get ahead in a State that continues to pile on costly regulations and taxes. Companies are relocating to states that offer business-friendly regulations, enabling them to grow, adding jobs and revenue for that state's economy. Simply stated, many families and businesses can no longer afford to live here because of the high cost of energy, gas, groceries, housing, and more. This recent action is tone-deaf to the challenges California families are facing.

I am calling on the five members of the California Energy Commission to resign. Unlike members of the Legislature, you are not directly accountable to the people of California through elections. As unelected and unaccountable political appointees, you should not be passing onerous policies that ultimately hit families in their wallets. The CEC's latest policy decision is wrong and is the opposite of what California families need right now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Strickland".

Tony Strickland
State Senator, California 36th Senate District