



## **MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF A.964 & S.1292**

**NAME OF BILL:** Clean Fuel Standard of 2023

**INTRODUCED BY:** Assembly Member Carrie Woerner  
Senator Kevin S. Parker

**DATE:** May 16, 2023

**SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS:** A.964/S.1292 establishes the Clean Fuel Standard of 2023 by amending the environmental conservation law to require the development of a clean fuel standard in New York State to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the transportation sector to achieve the goals set forth in the climate leadership and community protection act. This legislation creates a strong tool that will help reduce emissions in the short-term while providing the state additional resources to achieve its zero-emission transportation goals. The goal of this legislation is to reduce the carbon intensity of transportation, which is the highest source of GHG emissions in the country and in the state of New York.

**STATEMENT OF SUPPORT:** Consumer Reports strongly supports A.964/S.1292 to reduce GHG emissions from the production and consumption of transportation fuels by establishing the Clean Fuel Standard of 2023. This law will spur innovation in American technology, help ensure equitable and sustainable economic growth, and guide the transition to a cleaner, more just transportation sector.

GHG emissions have adverse climate impacts, such as floods and extreme weather events, which cost consumers billions of dollars every year.<sup>1</sup> In the United States, the biggest source of GHG emissions comes from the transportation sector, which accounts for 27% of the country's total GHG emissions.<sup>2</sup> In order to reduce GHG emissions, we must use a variety of methods to help bring cleaner technologies to the market. One way we can reduce GHG emissions from transportation is by increasing low carbon fuel (LCF) options for our vehicles. There are many LCF options currently available, including biofuels such as biodiesel and ethanol, which can fuel the millions of internal combustion engine vehicles already on the road today, as well as hydrogen and electricity, which require new vehicle technology. CR is committed to helping consumers understand their options when it comes to low carbon fuel technologies, and ensuring the transition to low-carbon transportation options is equitable. To that end, we have established a Low Carbon Fuels Hub on our website ([CR.org/LCF](https://www.consumerreports.org/lcf)), which provides consumers and policy makers with information on LCFs and their benefits. CR does not prefer, or advocate for, one LCF over another; we are technology neutral.

One tool that can be used to achieve broad carbon emissions reductions from the transportation sector is a Clean Fuel Standard, which is already proving successful in multiple states. An optimal Clean Fuel Standard takes a market-based approach to support a wide range of clean transportation fuels, reducing the fuels' carbon intensity year-to-year. By remaining technology neutral, a Clean Fuel Standard allows the market and consumers to determine which fuel sources and vehicle technologies are most effective in achieving carbon

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<sup>1</sup> Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters, NCEI, 2022. <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/>

<sup>2</sup> Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, EPA, 2020.

<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

emissions reductions, while driving further innovation in market segments that are more difficult to decarbonize immediately.

We commend the legislature for taking a strong approach in considering a strategy that would prioritize justice and equity by recognizing that communities impacted most by transportation greenhouse gas emissions are commonly low-income communities and communities of color. To that end, we support bill language that would require electric utilities and state agencies to invest forty percent of their overall credit values to electrified transportation programs, projects, or investments to directly benefit overburdened communities. Additionally, we urge the legislature to consider identifying further opportunities to ensure that these funds are providing overburdened communities with the resources to be well-equipped to support the full transition to zero-emission vehicles in the coming years.

As New York considers strategies to reduce emissions and combat the adverse effects of climate change, a Clean Fuels Standard provides a common-sense solution to transitioning away from high-carbon fuels, while bringing greater innovation and stability to the transportation fuels market. A.964 and S.1292 can help alleviate high gas prices by providing more fuel options for consumers which are not tied directly to fluctuating oil prices. A forward-looking program like a Clean Fuel Standard is a thoughtful approach that drives the transition away from traditional gasoline and diesel, while encouraging investments in cost-saving technologies<sup>3</sup> needed to reduce GHG emissions in all communities across New York.

**Consumer Reports strongly urges you to please support and cosponsor A.964 and S.1292, to establish a Clean Fuel Standard with the Department of Environmental Conservation to reduce the GHG emissions associated with the production and consumption of transportation fuels.**

**For more information, contact:**

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<sup>3</sup> Electric Vehicle Ownership Costs: Today's Electric Vehicles Offer Big Savings for Consumers, Consumer Reports, 2020. <https://advocacy.consumerreports.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/EV-Ownership-Cost-Final-Report-1.pdf>