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A California lawmaker says she's giving up on her proposal to require that 15 percent of new cars be emission free by 2025.

A spokeswoman for Democratic Assemblywoman Autumn Burke of Los Angeles says the measure ran into steeper opposition than she expected.

The spokeswoman, Allison Ruff, says the opposition came "from a variety of groups including the Western States Petroleum Association," which represents oil companies.
Burke announced her proposal last week, saying California's existing zero-emission-vehicle mandates were too weak to require significant new investments by automakers. AB1108 would have made plug-in hybrid vehicles, which include a gas engine, ineligible to comply with the mandate.

Automakers characterized the legislation as a giveaway to Tesla Motors, the largest seller of electric vehicles last year.

California lawmakers meanwhile are under pressure to divvy up more than $1 billion the state has collected from carbon auctions.

But there's a deepening divide in the Legislature over whether to dole out the money now or retain it as a bargaining chip while Democrats struggle to win support for extending California's climate programs.

The top Senate leader upped the ante Wednesday when he released legislation to spend $1.2 billion — most of the money not already earmarked. The plan by Democratic Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de Leon of Los Angeles includes incentives for lower-emission vehicles, transit funding and money for energy efficiency upgrades.

His proposal puts him at odds with Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown and Democratic Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon of Paramount, who would prefer to spend much less.

This story has been updated.

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Legalize affordable medium speed electric vehicles that go up to 45 mph. There great for short trips around town, the type of driving that waist the most fuel. States are responsible for regulating the operation of motor vehicles on there roads and right now only 10 states have legalized this type of vehicle. Making these little affordable cars available is not the answer to the problem but it could be part of the solution.

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Western States Petroleum Association is being greedy. They are selling fuel to power plants that provide electricity needed to recharge the electric cars.

Having an electric car is not being green. It would be better to walk and have a vehicle like the Prius which produces its own power without fuel.

Michael Thwaite • Shannon • a year ago
Careful; walking humans are pretty inefficient, especially when powered by beef.

The Toyota Prius is just gasoline powered but does increase efficiency by recovering breaking energy and by allowing a more efficient engine design however, unfortunately, and especially in California, it's far less environmentally sound than any model of EV currently on the market.

Indy • Shannon • a year ago
Are you that stupid Shannon? Prius produces it's own power without fuel? A total waste of oxygen.

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