



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'AUTOMOBILE



*30 April 2026*

The Honorable Sabrina Cervantes  
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
State Capitol, Room 412  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1392 (Cortese & Grove) – Support

Dear Chair Cervantes and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

On behalf of the International Historical Commission (CHI) of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), I write to express our strong support for SB 1392, also known as Leno's Law, which would create a narrowly tailored, collector-only pathway to a smog check exemption for certain model years, beginning with vehicles manufactured prior to the 1981 model year and expanding annually through vehicles manufactured prior to the 1986 model year by 2032. This legislation appropriately distinguishes historically significant vehicles from the broader vehicle fleet and ensures that California policy reflects the unique, limited-use nature of these preserved automobiles.

The FIA is the governing body for world motor sport and the federation for mobility organization, representing over 80 million road users across five continents. As a global non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, protection, and celebration of motoring heritage, the FIA's Historical Commission represents mobility clubs across five continents, encompassing thousands of classic vehicle collectors and the wider community. Our mission is embodied by the global network of FIA Clubs, which celebrate automotive history and its cultural significance from craftsmanship and design to innovation and social transformation.

SB 1392 honors this legacy by recognizing that classic vehicles are not daily drivers, but carefully maintained and infrequently used historical artifacts. These vehicles are typically owned by passionate collectors and used primarily for shows, parades, charitable functions, historical exhibitions, and educational purposes. Their environmental footprint is negligible when compared to the broader vehicle fleet, particularly because the bill is limited to a very small, narrowly defined collector-vehicle population. California's current static cutoff year of 1976 has not kept pace with the historical significance of late-1970s and early-1980s vehicles that are now clearly part of automotive heritage.



It is worth noting that many European countries, despite maintaining some of the world's strictest motor vehicle emissions standards, have adopted more flexible and thoughtful approaches to regulating classic vehicles. Nations such as the United Kingdom, Ireland, Poland, and Sweden offer rolling exemptions from periodic emissions inspections once a vehicle reaches a certain age, typically between 30 and 50 years. These policies recognize that the environmental impact of historic vehicles and that preserving automotive heritage is a legitimate public interest.

California has long been recognized as a leader in environmental policy and a trendsetter in automotive culture. SB 1392 strikes a thoughtful and balanced compromise by respecting air quality goals while protecting an essential element of California's cultural and economic fabric. It is intentionally bounded, does not create a broad rolling exemption, and creates only an optional pathway for qualifying collector vehicles. It ensures that rare and historic vehicles, some of which are displayed in world-renowned California museums and celebrated by enthusiasts around the world, can be preserved without undue regulatory burden.

The FIA has consistently emphasized that historic vehicles are part of our shared technical and cultural heritage and that preserving automotive heritage is a legitimate public interest. Historic vehicles occupy a unique place in society: they document the evolution of motorized transport, reflect major milestones in industrial and social development, and serve as living examples of engineering and design history. Policies that recognize their limited-use nature and preservation value are both reasonable and appropriate.

We respectfully urge you to vote in favor of SB 1392. In doing so, you will help preserve California's leadership in both clean air and cultural heritage, while ensuring that qualifying collector vehicles remain part of the state's historical and automotive landscape for future generations.

Sincerely,

**Giuseppe Redaelli**  
President, FIA International  
Historical Commission (CHI)

**Willem Groenewald**  
FIA Secretary General for Mobility,  
Sustainability and Tourism