

# Senator Ben Hueso

## Fact Sheet

### SB 53 - Hueso

## Natural Gas Vehicle Weight Exemption Act

### Summary

SB 53 adopts a vehicle weight exemption for natural gas vehicles as specified in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015. The act allows natural gas vehicles to exceed federal weight limits by up to 2,000 pounds.

### Background

- Natural gas vehicles generate significantly less greenhouse gas emissions than traditional gasoline or diesel-powered vehicles. This makes them an ideal resource to help California achieve its ambitious climate policy goals.
- Natural gas fuel systems can add up to 2,000 pounds to a vehicle's weight compared to diesel or gasoline fuel systems. Because natural gas is less dense than gasoline or diesel, the vehicle must carry larger tanks or additional tanks, which add weight.
- For businesses that operate vehicles at or near the weight limits, additional weight for natural gas equipment reduces the vehicle's payload capacity, creating a strong disincentive to switch to a natural gas. For businesses that have chosen to switch to natural gas vehicles anyway, the lower payload per trip requires an increase in vehicle miles traveled to carry the same payload, thus counteracting the potential emissions reductions.
- The federal government addressed these problems by adopting a vehicle weight exemption for natural gas vehicles in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015. The act allows natural gas vehicles to exceed federal weight limits by up to 2,000 pounds vis (23 U.S.C. § 127)

### Existing Law

- The FAST Act only applies to federal interstate highways, so the exemption only becomes truly effective when states adopt the same exemption for state highways and local roads.
- Approximately 13 states have already raised their weight limit for natural gas vehicles including Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Virginia. All but three of these were enacted in 2016.

### This Bill

- Will adopt a vehicle weight exemption for natural gas vehicles up to 2000 lbs.
- Follows the lead of approximately 13 states which have already adopted similar legislation or regulations, including Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Virginia.
- Will result in cleaner air by incentivizing transition from diesel to natural gas.

### Support

San Diego County Disposal Association  
(Co-Sponsor)

Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition (Co-Sponsor)

**See Attachment for full list of supporters**

**SB 53 (Hueso) Natural Gas Vehicle Weight Exemption Act**  
**Support List as of 1/24/17**

Accurate Underground and Grading, Inc.	J&L Transport
Agility Fuel Solutions	JRMA Architects and Engineers
Alameda County Industries	J-W Power Company
Alliant Specialty Insurance Services	Ken Grody Ford
ANGI	Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Athens Services	Los Angeles County Waste Management Association
Atlas Industries	Livermore Sanitation
Bay Counties Smart	Marin Sanitary Service
BLT Enterprises	McNeilus Truck and Manufacturing Inc.
BMS Technologies	Mission Trail Waste Systems, Inc.
Burrtec Waste Industries Inc.	Mobile Fueling Solutions
CalPortland Company	Mountain Valley Express
CASS Inc.	Napa Recycling and Waste Services LLC.
Chavez Transport Inc.	NASA Services
Cherry Engineering	Nationwide Environmental Services
CleanStreet	Northern Recycling Operations and Waste Services LLC.
CR&R Inc.	Olympic Wire and Equipment
Cummins & White LLP	Pacific Rim Communications
Desert Valley Disposal Inc.	Palm Springs Disposal Services
Dickson Co Inc.	Peña's Disposal Inc.
Direct Disposal	Pleasanton Garbage Service
East Bay Sanitary Co.	Peninsula Sanitary Service Inc.
Ecology Recycling Services and Transportation	Rainbow Environmental Services
EDCO Waste and Recycling Services	Ramona Disposal Service
Escondido Disposal Inc.	Raymundo Engineering Company Inc.
EW Truck and Equipment Company Inc.	Refuel
Facility Builders and Erectors	Riley Electric Inc.
FASTECH	Robinson's Mechanical Construction Inc.
Fremont Recycling and Transfer Station	SFA LLC.
Garden City Sanitation	Silke Communications
GEOCON	Solid Waste Association of Orange County
Gladstein, Neandress & Associates	Southern California Disposal and Recycling Co Inc.
Green, Hasson, Janks LLP	South San Francisco Scavenger Company Inc.
GreenWaste Recovery Inc.	Spear and Associations Inc.
Harris Ranch	Strategic Materials
Haul Away Rubbish Service Co. Inc.	T&T Trucking
Inland Empire Disposal Association	

TruStar Energy

Turlock Scavenger Recycling and Transfer

Upper Valley Disposal and Recycling

UPS

Universal Waste Systems Inc.

Valley Vista Services Inc.

Varner Bros., Inc.

Volvo Trucks of North America

WARE Disposal Co. Inc.

Western Trailers

Westhoff, Cone & Holmstedt

Zanker Recycling