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**Transportation: Seniors and Disabled Individuals Access to Transportation to Medical Services**

Introduced by Sr Assembly Member Warren

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There has occurred a lot of discussion about California’s “Cap and Trade” program in the media. The programs purpose is to reduce emissions of a pollutant by placing a limit or “cap” on the total amount of emissions that can be released by specific sources during a fixed time period. CA allocates or sells a limited number of permits to allow for the discharge of specific quantities of a specific pollutant per time period. Polluters are required to hold permits in the amount equal to their emissions. Polluters that want to increase their emissions must buy permits from others willing to sell them. Thus the “trade” element of the program.

The state’s emphasis on reducing greenhouse gases and emissions has produced a large revenue fund call the “Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund”. It is overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency.

This proposal requests that monies from this fund be allocated for grants for energy renewable transportation to PSA’s that have large senior and disabled populations living in rural, mountain or desert communities and for whom non-emergency medical services is non-existent or limited. And for whom transportation methods now use high pollutant emissions for whatever transportation is obtainable.

There are several PSA’s that meet that criteria these are just a few:

San Bernadino County’s 307,000 senior and disabled population is spread over 20,000 square miles of rural, desert and mountain areas,

Equally challenging for the 117,000+ seniors and disabled citizens in Stanislaus County are the 1515 square miles and no DAAS sponsored transport services,

The transportation problems in both Lake and Mendocino Counties, as many other counties throughout the state, stem from the rural, low density population base, separated by many miles and the geography – mountains and lakes and fuel sources that are pollutants.