

May 27, 2005

Yukitoshi Funo, U.S. Corporate President
Toyota Motor Corporation U.S.A.
PO Box 2991
Torrance, CA 90509

Dear Mr. Funo:

I am writing to most respectfully request that Toyota re-evaluate the systematic destruction of existing Electric Vehicles (EVs). I understand that there are several hundred Toyota RAV4-EVs being used by various utility, municipal and corporate fleets throughout California and that the current lessees very much want to keep their vehicles, and are willing to purchase them. However, I am informed that Toyota is refusing to allow them to do so.

Despite the efforts of the California Air Resources Board, there has always been a shortage of production EVs such as the RAV4-EV, and there is a market for even the most mistreated EV. It would seem that Toyota could benefit from deciding not to simply render these vehicles into junk.

Toyota, in developing electric vehicles, did accept tens of millions of taxpayer dollars, including money from the State of California. Although we understand that business decisions lie completely in your hands, it would seem that the company is now destroying the very cars subsidized by taxpayers. With the recent call for California taxpayers to spend \$54 million to help establish the hydrogen highway infrastructure, we have to wonder whether a similar destruction of fuel cell vehicles is in our future.

I have always been aware that Toyota values its image of corporate responsibility and concern for public health. It would seem, therefore, that these cars should be sold to people who want to use them to help clean up California's air. I most sincerely hope that you will decide to alter your decision, and I look forward to hearing from you.

With greatest respect,



Sheila James Kuehl
Senator, 23rd District

cc: Jim Press, Chief Operating Officer, Toyota Motor Corporation U.S.A.
Don Esmond, Senior Vice President, Toyota Motor Corporation U.S.A.
Dean Kato, Senior Counsel, Toyota Motor Corporation U.S.A.