

## LEGISLATION & PUBLIC INFORMATION UNIT

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May 7, 2018

Honorable Jim Beall Chair, Transportation and Housing Committee California State Senate Capitol Building, Room 2082 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2806 (OBERNOLTE) as introduced – SUPPORT IF AMENDED

Dear Senator Beall:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 2806 if amended.** This bill is currently pending in the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee.

AB 2806 authorizes a vehicle identified with a disability license plate or distinguishing placard and equipped with a lift, ramp, or other assistive device used for loading or unloading a person with a disability to park in a stall or space designated for electric vehicle charging without being connected for electric charging purposes if the equipment has or will be used for loading or unloading a person with a disability from the parked vehicle.

While DRC supports the intent of this measure, we believe that this language is too narrow. Many people with disabilities do not have a vehicle equipped with a lift, ramp, or other assistive device used for loading or unloading. These individuals may only have a disability parking placard that they use when driving a standard vehicle or riding in the vehicle of another individual who does not have a disability. Further, they may only have assistive technology to help with driving the vehicle, but not necessarily for

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loading and unloading. Nonetheless, they also have a disability and a need to park in designated disability parking. Given this important disability related need, these individuals should also be allowed to park in electrical vehicle parking stalls without penalty.

Therefore, we request that this bill be amended so that any person with a valid disability parking placard can park in a stall or space designated for electric vehicle charging without penalty. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position or if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Abouhassan

Senior Legislative Advocate

Disability Rights California

Svelge M. Wonharden

cc: Honorable Jay Obernolte, California State Assembly

Danielle Parsons, Legislative Director, Office of Assembly Member Obernolte

Honorable Members, Senate Transportation and Housing Committee Jeffery Song, Fellow, Senate Transportation and Housing Committee Doug Yoakam, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus Committee