



## SUMMARY

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Every major motor oil brand offers higher quality, synthetic oils that are better for engines, and are far more environmentally friendly than conventional oils. Higher quality oils reduce waste and pollution and, if used more widely, can increase gas mileage in vehicles equivalent to taking a half a million cars off the road in California. Yet only 20% of the oil sold in the state is of this higher quality. SB 778 requires all motor oil sold in the State to meet quality standards which will be measurably better for vehicles and the environment than conventional oils.

## BACKGROUND

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Low quality motor oil is costing California consumers and hurting our environment. Many drivers spend 2-3% more on gasoline because low quality motor oil causes a decrease in gas mileage. This poor quality oil also requires drivers to change their oil 2-3 times as often compared to higher quality synthetic oil, at recommended intervals of 3,000 – 5,000 miles, costing consumers more and producing an unnecessary amount of oil waste. Low quality motor oil can also cause increased engine wear, costing drivers hundreds of dollars in unneeded repairs.

The high frequency of oil changes caused by low quality motor oil makes used motor oil one of the largest hazardous waste streams in California. Over 115 million gallons of motor oil are sold in the state each year; and only about half of it is recycled with the other half ending up in the waste stream, polluting our waterways and ocean, or burning off, causing air pollution. This insoluble low quality motor oil contains hazardous materials such as heavy metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon, which threaten human health and the environment. In addition, one gallon of used motor oil can foul the taste of 1 million gallons of drinking water.

Also, according the Petroleum Quality Institute of America, some of the motor oil on store shelves is of such poor quality that it could potentially damage a car’s engine. In fact, six states have banned motor oil that is

not quality certified, brands such as Black Knight, Lube State and MaxiGuard MG. These brands contain a small warning statement that they are not recommended for vehicles built after 1968, but unless consumers read the fine print, they can cause significant damage, reducing the life of engines newer than 40 years old.

Higher quality oils provide a greater level of protection for an engine, protect that engine longer, and are better for the environment. In fact, routine oil analysis indicates that many synthetic oils, which are already offered by every major motor oil brand, effectively protect engines from wear with oil change intervals at 15,000 miles or longer. Further, many new car warranties require this longer lasting synthetic oil, not just to protect the engine, but also to ensure the vehicle meets its mileage standards. SB 778 will result in broader use of higher quality oils, bringing about significant environmental and economic benefits.

## SOLUTION

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SB 778 requires all automotive oil sold in California to meet a higher quality standard, defined as oil which requires changing at 10,000 mile intervals, by 2018. While drivers will still have the opportunity to change their oil at the appropriate interval mandated in the cars manual, SB 778 will eliminate the need to change the oil more frequently, which often results from using poor quality oil. Further, automakers can feel comfortable extending the interval based on the high quality of oil on the market in California.

## SUPPORT

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- Californians Against Waste (Sponsor)
- American Logistics Company
- American Lung Association
- Blue River Advisors
- California Coastal Coalition
- California League of Conservation Voters
- Clean Green Technologies
- Coalition for Clean Air





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### **SUPPORT CONTINUED**

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Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation  
Colorado Ocean Coalition  
Environment California  
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin  
Friends of the River  
LivBlue  
Marine Watch International  
Mission Blue/Sylvia Earle Alliance  
Napa Recycling & Waste Services  
Roost LA  
Solazyme, Inc  
Strategic Ocean Solutions  
Surfrider Foundation  
T2 Energy  
The TerraMar Project  
Turtle Island Restoration Network  
West Marin Environmental Action Committee  
Wholly H2O  
Wildcoast

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