



June 17, 2009

Mayor and Council Members
City of Berkeley
Attn: Matt Nichols,
Public Works Transportation 1947 Center St.,
3rd floor Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

The Ecology Center would like to give our endorsement in the passage of the Tax Relief Action to Cut Commuter Carbon (TRACC) ordinance. It offers a rare opportunity to provide tax breaks for employers and employees, while increasing transit usage, reducing air pollution, and shrinking Berkeley's carbon footprint. The Ecology Center believes that a crucial way to increase transit and bicycling usage is to provide incentives for employees to consider the option.

As a transit pass vendor we accept commuter checks and sell bus and BART passes to the public at our retail store on San Pablo Avenue. This is a vital service to local residents and we would very much like to see employee transit benefits expand in our City.

This ordinance will help us reach Berkeley's environmental goals by encouraging the use of the transit infrastructure already in place.

Thanks for your leadership,

Martin Bourque
Executive Director