

EMBARGOED UNTIL 9/9/10 * EMBARGOED UNTIL 9/9/10 *

Alaska Wilderness League • American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy • Center for Auto Safety • Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies • Clean Water Action • Conservation Law Foundation • Earth Day Network • Environment America • Fresh Energy • Friends of the Earth • Greenpeace • Interfaith Power and Light • League of Conservation Voters • National Wildlife Federation • Natural Resources Defense Council • Safe Climate Campaign • Sierra Club • Southern Alliance for Clean Energy • Union of Concerned Scientists

September 9, 2010

President Barack Obama
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

Last May, you announced plans to cut America's oil dependence and address climate change by making our cars and trucks cleaner and more fuel efficient. On behalf of our millions of members and supporters nationwide, we thank you for your leadership. Setting strong global warming pollution and fuel efficiency standards for new cars and trucks is a key opportunity to put America on the right path. Our changing climate, the hundreds of billions of dollars sent overseas to pay for imported oil and technology, and the devastated shores of the Gulf and the Kalamazoo River demand that we break our oil dependence and move forward with clean vehicles.

The technology exists to boost fuel efficiency and cut tailpipe pollution for all types of vehicles. Strong standards are needed to unleash this country's greatest resource – American ingenuity. It will revitalize our economy and keep jobs in America. History has shown that without strong pollution and fuel efficiency standards, U.S. automakers lag behind the competition, costing us jobs, increasing oil dependence, creating more pollution, and limiting technology innovation. That is why Americans continue to overwhelmingly support strengthening vehicle standards.

At the end of this month, the Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency are expected to release two critical proposals involving the development of fuel efficiency and carbon pollution standards for new cars and trucks. As your administration develops these proposals, we urge you to set standards that:

- Reduce the country's oil dependence by at least 49 billion gallons per year by 2030 and reduce carbon dioxide pollution by at least 535 million metric tons per year by 2030.
- Require new light-duty vehicles to meet Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards of at least 60 miles-per-gallon and global warming tailpipe pollution standards of no more than 143 grams-per-mile by model year 2025. These standards can be met through known technology, especially hybrids and plug-in electric vehicles. The pollution standards should be based on accurate accounting, including the upstream emissions from power plants for plug-in hybrid and electric-drive vehicles.
- Reduce fuel consumption from long-haul trucks pulling standard van trailers, the biggest users of fuel in the medium- and heavy-duty truck sector, by at least 35 percent by model year 2017. The standards should require all other medium- and heavy-duty trucks to increase fuel efficiency to the maximum technically-feasible, cost-effective level. These standards should require fuel-efficiency improvements from the entire truck, including trailers.
- Fully value the fuel-savings and consumer benefits associated with higher fuel efficiency standards. The valuation should rely on standard discount rates of 3 and 7 percent and reflect accurate assessments of the choices facing consumers when they purchase a new vehicle.

Again, on behalf of our millions of members and supporters nationwide, we thank you for your leadership and request that you set the strongest possible fuel efficiency and carbon pollution standards for new cars and trucks. With technology and American ingenuity, we can cut consumers' fuel costs, create new jobs, protect the environment, and enhance our national security. With these standards you can ensure we take this opportunity to put America on the path to ending our dependence on oil.

Sincerely,

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Cc: Secretary LaHood, Administrator Jackson, Carol Browner, Jeffrey Zients