



October 1, 2010

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

Dear President Obama,

On behalf of the millions of citizens in our states, we thank you for your leadership in proposing to reduce our dependence on foreign oil by increasing fuel efficiency for new cars and trucks. We are pleased that the Department of Transportation (through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are releasing a proposal that meets your call from last May for improved fuel efficiency and stronger greenhouse gas pollution standards for new cars and trucks.

We write to let you know that we support this action for many reasons, but perhaps most importantly, by employing American ingenuity we will have more efficient vehicles that will reduce unnecessary and wasteful spending at the pump, keeping money in our state and local economies. The US currently sends nearly \$1 billion overseas for oil every day; money we could use more productively at home.

Our states are among the 14 states that have adopted cleaner car standards based on the pioneering California rules -- and consumers are embracing the vehicles. Building on California's independent authority and technical expertise, our alliance of states remains committed to support cars that are technologically advanced, use less oil and run cleaner. We believe that reducing our demand for oil will also be good for the environment, as it will reduce the risk of damage to our oceans, our coasts and sensitive land.

Today, the technology exists to reduce fuel use and pollution from all types of vehicles. As your administration develops these proposals, we urge you to set ambitious new standards for passenger vehicles. Some hybrids today already get over 50 miles per gallon and are being labeled "conventional." We have seen the automakers meet goals time and again and we are confident that technological improvements, including the plug-in hybrids and pure electric vehicles that they are rolling out, will increase efficiency and affordability further and will make 60 miles per gallon commonplace. We urge you to help realize this by setting a joint EPA/NHTSA standard of 60 mpg by 2025.

We also look forward to EPA and NHTSA's proposed fuel economy and greenhouse gas standards for medium- and heavy-duty trucks. These next clean vehicle standards must also put money back in consumers' pockets by increasing fuel efficiency of long-haul trucks by at least 35 percent by 2017. As the cost of shipping decreases, necessities will become more affordable for struggling families around the US. Taken together these standards would reduce the country's oil consumption by more than 45 billion gallons per year by 2030—more than one and a half times the amount we currently import from the Persian Gulf.

In the past, government and industry were at odds. But we are glad to say that the carmakers are supporting clean car standards because they know that Americans will increasingly demand these cleaner cars. Today, there are fewer and fewer parties on the "other side" of this issue.

On behalf of our citizens, we thank you and are pleased that you share our vision of pioneering technology that makes travel more affordable, creates new jobs, protects the environment, and enhances our national security. We thank you and your agencies for leadership on this important issue and look forward to partnering to improve our economy, environment, and leadership in the world.

Sincerely,



Governor David A. Paterson  
New York



Governor John Baldacci  
Maine



Governor Martin O'Malley  
Maryland



Governor Deval Patrick  
Massachusetts



Governor Bill Richardson  
New Mexico



Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski  
Oregon



Governor Edward G. Rendell  
Pennsylvania



Governor James H. Douglas  
Vermont

*Chris Gregoire*

Governor Christine O. Gregoire  
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