

California State Senate

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SENATOR
FRAN PAVLEY

TWENTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



January 21, 2009

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

Dear President Obama:

As your Administration embarks on the ambitious and forward-looking agenda you have laid out, I am writing to thank you for your pledge to have the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revisit the California Clean Air Act waiver request that was denied by the Bush Administration.

As the author of AB 1493, the legislation that mandates regulations to reduce tailpipe greenhouse gas emissions for which we have requested this waiver, as well as AB 32 (California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006), I would like to offer my support and whatever assistance I can to help ensure that this issue is addressed as soon as possible. I testified at both of the 2007 EPA hearings and feel strongly that California has met the criteria required to be granted a waiver.

It has been seven years since the legislation was passed and signed into law, and almost five years since California's Air Resources Board enacted the regulations to implement AB 1493. Since that time, legal obstacles by the auto industry and what I believe was a poorly-reasoned decision by the Bush Administration's EPA have delayed implementation of a bill that will not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also create jobs, reduce dependence on foreign oil, and help consumers save money at the gas pump.

I am encouraged that your new EPA Administrator, Lisa Jackson, has said that she will immediately revisit the previous decision not to grant the waiver. As you are no doubt aware, up to 18 other states are poised to enact the same regulations that California has passed. But in order to do so, California must be granted a waiver by the EPA as required by the Clean Air Act, so the action your Administration takes will have a tremendous impact nationwide, not just here in California. This action will help expedite and spur innovation in our automotive industry to manufacture clean, efficient cars.

Thank you for your leadership in promoting clean technology to combat climate change impacts and improve the environment as the soundest strategy to revive the economy. As a long-time supporter of strong environmental policy and green technology development, I look forward to working with you on policies at the state and federal level that support this important national effort.

Sincerely,

Senator Fran Pavley
California Senate District 23

cc: The Honorable Lisa Jackson, U.S. EPA Administrator
Nancy Sutley, White House Council on Environmental Quality
Carol Browner, Assistant to the President on Energy and Climate Change