

May 20, 2008

Conservation Law Foundation \* Environment America \* Fresh Energy  
Natural Resources Defense Council \* Pew Environment Group \* Public Citizen \* Sierra Club  
Union of Concerned Scientists

**Support states' right to take action on global warming by voting for S.2555**

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our millions of members nationwide, we urge you to vote for S. 2555 when the Environment and Public Works Committee considers the bill on Wednesday, May 21, 2008. The Reducing Global Warming Pollution from Vehicles Act of 2008 (S.2555) will permit California and other states to implement standards that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from new motor vehicles.

Just this month Arizona became the 14<sup>th</sup> state to adopt California's vehicle emission standards. These states are taking the lead in tackling global warming pollution by adopting clean car standards. According to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), its clean car standards will reduce cumulative greenhouse gas pollution 40% more than new national fuel economy standards through 2020.

The Clean Air Act allows California to set its own vehicle emissions standards to protect public health and welfare. The Act also gives other states the option to adopt California's standards. In 2002, California's legislature passed the Vehicle Global Warming Law, AB 1493. In 2005, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) developed standards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from new vehicles 30% by 2016. California needed a normally-routine waiver from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to be able to implement these standards. The EPA has granted 50 such waiver requests over the past four decades, and had never previously denied a request.

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, however, contradicting the advice of EPA's technical and legal staff and the overwhelming majority of public comments, Administrator Stephen Johnson denied California's waiver request on the grounds that California did not have "compelling and extraordinary" conditions that warranted the right to set greenhouse gas standards.

S.2555 will correct this erroneous decision, enabling Arizona, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington to implement clean car standards that will help these states reduce their carbon footprints. Other states, including Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire and Utah are all considering adoption of these standards through administrative action or legislation. To date the Attorney Generals for 18\* states have joined California in litigation to overturn the waiver denial.

S. 2555 will overturn the Administration's erroneous roadblock to California's greenhouse gas standards for vehicles. **Again, we urge you to vote for S. 2555 when the bill is considered in the Environment and Public Works Committee on Wednesday, May 21, 2008.**

\* Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington

Sincerely,

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