



NEW YORK

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CALIFORNIA

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January 2005

Dear Chairman Inhofe and Senator Jeffords,

We write to you as governors of two of the most populous states in the nation, states that are blessed with vibrant metropolitan areas, vast rural communities, and world-renowned open spaces. Our states also hold in common a commitment to improving air quality in order to improve the health of our 55 million residents and diverse ecosystems. No states have done more to meet the mandates of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments.

One of the cornerstones of the Act is that states do the majority of the work to carry out its mandates. Another cornerstone is that the federal government sets air quality standards to ensure that all Americans have the same basic health and environmental protections. An equally important basis is that the Act allows individual states to have stronger pollution controls than those set for the whole country – a right California and New York have exercised under the Act. The right of individual states to set policy with respect to the health and welfare of their citizens is a fundamental tenet in which we both strongly believe.

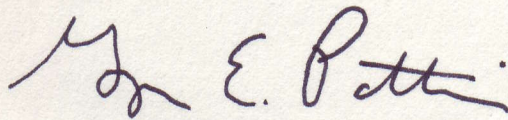
As a result of this framework, numerous programs to control air pollution on local and regional bases have been developed and implemented for our states to attain clean air for our citizens and natural resources. Principal among these is the California Low Emission Vehicle program which has generated tremendous public health and environmental benefits to California and participating states, including New York. The program also drives technological innovation to reduce motor vehicle emissions. Our states have also implemented numerous other programs, including limits on volatile compounds released from consumer products, architectural and industrial maintenance coatings, and portable fuel containers. All of these programs add up to cleaner air for our citizens and environment.

As a result of the new eight-hour ozone and particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) standards, more states than ever will need to develop programs that reduce pollutants and bring their air into compliance with health-based standards. These states, like ours, will need all the tools available under the Act to craft effective strategies to meet the standards.

We ask that as the Committee considers amendments to the Act, its members protect the cornerstones of the Act: (1) states are obligated to provide clean air for our citizens, (2) the federal government promulgate protective air quality standards for all pollutants, and (3) states maintain the ability to have stronger pollution controls than those set for the nation as a whole.

We look forward to working with the Committee as it addresses these vital issues facing our states and the nation.

Sincerely,



George E. Pataki



Arnold Schwarzenegger

Cc: Environment and Public Works Committee  
Honorable Bill Frist  
Honorable Harry Reid  
New York Congressional Delegation  
California Congressional Delegation