

NEWS

For Immediate Release

Dec. 2, 2008

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FLORIDA AUDUBON APPLAUDS ERC DECISION ON CLEAN CARS

Next stop for clean car rule: The Florida Legislature

Tallahassee, FL -- Florida advanced down the road Tuesday toward the day when cars and trucks sold in Florida will burn cleaner, lower green house gas emissions, and help diminish the effects of global warming.

"Thanks to a positive vote by the Florida Environmental Regulation Commission (ERC) today to adopt the California Clean Car rule Floridians could begin buying those vehicles by 2013," said Audubon Deputy Director Eric Draper.

"Next, this rule goes to the Florida Legislature, which must ratify the action of the ERC. The Legislature is responsive to voters and we think it will give Floridians what they want -- clean cars with lower emissions."

The so-called California Clean Car rule is supported by the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation and Gov. Charlie Crist and is critical to the state's accelerating efforts to reduce green house gas emissions that cause global warming. An estimated 40 percent of the state's total green house gas emissions is caused by the transportation sector.

Advocates for the clean car rule anticipate intense lobbying opposition by automakers when the issue is taken up by the Legislature in March, 2009.

"This is one of the best policies we could adopt right now to prevent environmental and economic harm from continuing to spew green house gas gases into the atmosphere," said Draper.

"These cars and trucks won't cost consumers more money, once you factor in the savings on fuel realized. These vehicles also will get better mileage and pollute less. Many models being sold are already meeting these new standards," Draper added.

"This is a small step that pays a huge benefit for all Floridians."

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