

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 18, 2008

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Yesterday morning, we read with great interest an article in the *Wall Street Journal* that indicated a draft of an upcoming Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulatory initiative asserts that “[c]ars and trucks could be even more fuel-efficient than currently required by law and achieve fuel efficiency better than the auto-maker fleet average of 35 miles per gallon required by 2020.”¹

The article continued to state that “the EPA staff concludes that, based on advanced technologies such as plug-in hybrid vehicles, vehicle fuel efficiency could be well above 35 miles per gallon between 2020 and 2025,” and that the “draft document suggests the EPA staff is contemplating issuing motor-vehicle emissions standards that would be more stringent than currently required by federal law and would be phased in more quickly.”²

This is good news for drivers who are suffering at the pump and want more fuel efficient vehicles, and it is good news for our environment. Now, we urge you to join us and lead our nation toward energy independence.

We hope that your Administration will heed the advice of its own Energy Information Administration (EIA) Administrator, Guy Caruso, in determining the maximum feasible fuel economy standards the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is directed by law to promulgate. Currently, NHTSA is using EIA’s 2008 forecast for gasoline prices that range from \$2.42/gallon in 2016 to \$2.51/gallon in 2030. However, while testifying before the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, Administrator Caruso agreed that NHTSA should use EIA’s *high* gas price scenario in setting fuel economy standards.³ In assuming the more reasonable range of \$3.14/gallon in 2016 to \$3.74/gallon in 2030 demonstrates that the technology is available to cost-effectively achieve a much higher fleet wide fuel economy of nearly 35 mpg in 2015.

With gas prices over \$4 per gallon, we need to do everything we can to reduce demand and ease the burden on American families. Increasing fuel efficiency is an integral part

¹ <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121367237676080133.html>

² *ibid*

³ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=umlei2-F9t8&eurl=http://globalwarming.house.gov/pubs/?id=0043>

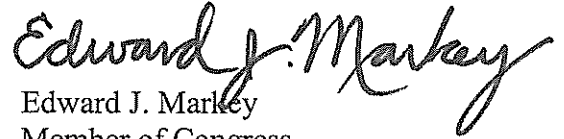
of reducing demand and the price of gas, and we are pleased that your Administration recognizes the capability and need for implementing stronger fuel efficiency standards.

Our offices look forward to hearing from your staff on the details of the CAFE standards beyond 35 mpg by 2020 that you support.

Sincerely,



Rahm Emanuel
Member of Congress



Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress

cc Stephen Johnson, EPA Administrator