

October 19, 2011

Philip Brady
President
National Automobile Dealers Association
8400 Westpark Drive
McLean, VA 22102

Dear Mr. Brady,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters nationwide, we are deeply disappointed that the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) has launched an effort to delay the critically important fuel efficiency and auto pollution standards. These standards are supported by major automakers, the United Auto Workers, California and other clean car states, and numerous consumer, environmental, business and national security organizations. By continuing to oppose these standards, NADA is trying to sell Congress, dealers, and the American people a lemon.

The broadly supported agreement would strengthen fuel efficiency and global warming pollution standards for new cars and light trucks to the equivalent of 54.5 miles-per-gallon (mpg) and 163 grams-per-mile CO₂-equivalent by model year 2025. This will give consumers the ability to choose from a full range of vehicles that achieve an on-road average fuel efficiency of approximately 40 mpg – nearly twice today's levels. This is one of the biggest single steps our nation can take to save Americans money at the gas pump, create new jobs both inside and outside the auto industry, clean up our air, and cut America's dangerous dependence on oil. This agreement is projected to:

- Cut America's oil dependence by 1.5 million barrels per day in 2030 – equal to what the U.S. imported from Saudi Arabia and Iraq last year.
- Create nearly 500,000 new jobs, both in the auto industry and the economy at large.
- Save American consumers over \$44 billion in 2030 alone – even after paying for the cost of fuel-saving technology.
- Clean up our air by preventing 280 million metric tons of heat-trapping global warming pollution from entering the atmosphere in 2030 alone.

By attacking these standards, NADA's actions put our economy, environment, and national security at greater risk.

Right now, auto dealers across the country are selling vehicles that meet fuel efficiency and greenhouse gas standards for model years 2012 to 2016. NADA also opposed these standards when they were first proposed by making the same arguments it is currently using to attack the next round of standards. However, none of NADA's nightmare predictions have come true as a result of these standards. Instead, auto dealers have increased both employment and profits in the past year. Thanks to these standards, American drivers are already reaping the benefits of clean, fuel-efficient vehicles.

American taxpayers came to the rescue of America's auto dealers when many dealerships were facing severe financial hardship during the economic crisis. Cash for Clunkers helped boost auto sales across the country thanks to the support of \$3 billion in taxpayer dollars. That policy and

other government programs allowed many auto dealers to stay in business through challenging times. It is deeply unfortunate that NADA is now pushing legislation that would pay back those very taxpayers who are currently struggling with high prices at the gas pump by denying them the advanced technology vehicles that will save money, cut oil use and reduce pollution.

Delaying these standards will only force Americans to pay more at the gas pump, jeopardize new jobs and investments, put the health of our communities at risk from increased pollution, and continue America's dangerous dependence on oil. We urge NADA to drop its efforts to delay the development of these important standards. If you would like to schedule a meeting to discuss our concerns, we would welcome that dialogue.

Sincerely,

Joseph K. Lyou, Ph.D.
President & CEO
Coalition for Clean Air

Frank O'Donnell
President
Clean Air Watch

Tyson Eckerle
Executive Director
Energy Independence Now

Margie Alt
Executive Director
Environment America

Francis Bienecke
President
Natural Resources Defense Council

Dan Becker
Director
Safe Climate Campaign

Michael Brune
Executive Director
Sierra Club

Kevin Knobloch
President
Union of Concerned Scientists