

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 16, 2010

The Honorable John Kerry  
218 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

Thank you for your leadership developing bipartisan legislation to address the pressing problem of climate change. We are writing to express our belief that Federal legislation should encourage states to continue playing an important role in reducing air pollution from vehicles.

We strongly support maintaining the State of California's historic role as the leader for tailpipe emissions and fuels standards under the Clean Air Act, and the long-standing ability of other states to adopt California's standards as their own. California has set stronger standards than the federal government for vehicles since the 1960s, and many other states have chosen to adopt these standards in order to reduce the public health effects of air pollution. Congress has considered efforts to preempt California in the past. In 2007, during final negotiations on the legislation to increase Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards, Congress thoroughly evaluated preemption proposals and rejected them, concluding that such preemption would lead to weak future standards.

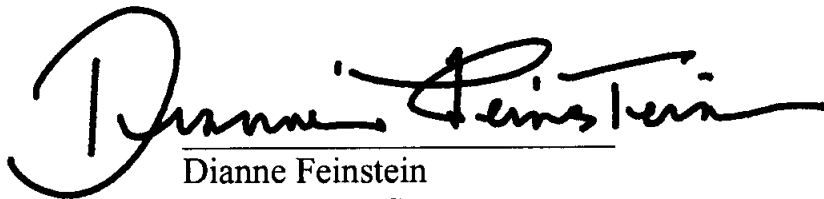
In the case of greenhouse gas emissions, the Obama Administration successfully negotiated a Federal standard for model years 2012-2016 that is strong enough that California and 14 other states agreed to adopt it. This is an important achievement. However, Federal vehicle emissions standards for 2017 to 2022 have not yet been drafted, and our states should not be prevented from acting if the Federal government fails to set strong standards in the future.

In recent months you have made a strong case that harnessing the power of the market is a vital piece of a national effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Complementary policies, including strong tailpipe emissions standards, incentives to purchase efficient vehicles, and standards to reduce the carbon content of our transportation fuels are also critical to any successful effort to reduce emissions.

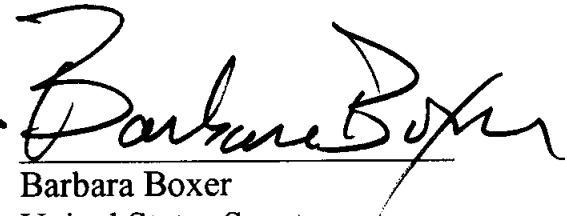
States have historically been pioneers and incubators for complementary policies that effectively reduce emissions from the transportation sector. We believe legislation designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the most cost effective manner possible should allow states the ability to develop policy approaches that attain emissions reductions cost effectively. We ask that you maintain this important role for States in your legislation.

Again, thank you for your work to craft a bipartisan bill that will promote new technologies, reduce emissions, stimulate employment, and set our nation on a more sustainable future economic path. We look forward to working with you closely to ensure that the legislation obtains its goals and becomes law.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Dianne Feinstein in cursive script.

Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Barbara Boxer in cursive script.

Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator