

THE  
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November 1, 2011

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

Thank you for your leadership in pursuing and winning stakeholder agreement on new national fuel efficiency and carbon emission standards for light vehicles equaling 54.5 miles per gallon by model year 2025. The Pew Environment Group strongly supports the new standards and respectfully asks that you protect them from any pressure that might weaken their goals and benefits. Strong standards for vehicle emissions and fuel economy will help minimize U.S. dependence on foreign oil, save consumers money at the pump, and help manufacturers advance new technologies that spur investment in research and development.

Cars and light duty trucks account for 61 percent of energy used for transportation in the United States, mostly in the form of gasoline. The average American household spends approximately \$2,000 per year on gasoline, and daily gasoline costs in the U.S. exceed \$1.3 billion. The RAND Corporation estimates that the U.S. military spends between \$67 and \$83 billion annually defending oil chokepoints around the world. Cars and light duty trucks also accounted for 1.1 billion metric tons of carbon emissions in 2009, equal to the total emissions of 63 percent of U.S. coal fired power plants. Adopting joint fuel efficiency and emission reduction standards of 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025 will save consumers up to \$8,200 in fuel costs compared to a 2010 vehicle, more than 12 billion barrels of oil and 6 billion metric tons of carbon emissions.

Pew has long supported higher federal fuel economy standards. In 2007, we actively led a group of stakeholders that achieved overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress on the first fuel economy increase in 30 years. We have also sought to persuade public officials and opinion leaders across the nation about the dangers of U.S. oil dependence to our nation's economy and to the lives of the U.S. servicemen and women that defend oil transit routes around the world.

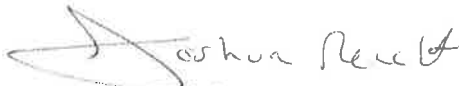
As you know, the public also strongly supports reducing U.S. oil dependence through higher fuel economy. Our bipartisan poll commissioned in July 2011 found that 91 percent of Americans identify U.S. dependence on foreign oil as a threat to our national security, and strong bipartisan majorities in every region of the country believe that adopting stronger fuel economy standards is the best way to lessen that dependence. Attached you will find a petition signed by more than

31,000 Americans urging your administration to enact strong standards for model years 2017-2025.

As federal agencies finalize details of the proposed rule due to be released in November, we strongly urge that new standards result in meaningful increases in fuel economy while deploying advanced technologies, including electric vehicles. New technologies have the potential to lead a renewal in American manufacturing while shifting the transportation sector away from dependence on oil. It is particularly important that the upcoming rule prevent industry from weakening standards in future years.

The Pew Environment Group strongly urges that federal agencies adopt and maintain strong rules that require light duty vehicles to achieve 54.5 miles per gallon in model year 2025. Mr. President, thank you for your leadership and commitment to limit U.S. dependence on foreign oil, ensure that manufacturers continue to develop and deploy advanced technologies, and lessen the burden shouldered by American servicemen and women carrying out oil security missions around the world. Please feel free to direct any questions to Phyllis Cuttino, Director of our Clean Energy Campaign, at (202) 887-8867 or [pcuttino@pewtrusts.org](mailto:pcuttino@pewtrusts.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joshua Reichert". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Joshua Reichert  
Managing Director  
The Pew Environment Group

Cc: The Honorable Lisa Jackson, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
The Honorable David Strickland, Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety  
Administration