

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 26, 2006

The Honorable Stephen L. Johnson
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460-0001

Dear Mr. Johnson:

We are writing to urge you to grant California's waiver request that will allow California and ten other leading states to adopt technically feasible and cost-effective emissions standards to reduce global warming pollution from new passenger vehicles.

In late 2004, California adopted new standards requiring cars and light-duty trucks to limit emissions that contribute to global warming. The standards begin with the 2009 model year and phase-in gradually over eight years. By the 2016 model year, they would cut global warming pollution from new vehicles by almost 30 percent. Ten other states -- Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington -- have already adopted these standards and others are considering them. Together, these eleven states' consumers buy approximately one-third of the new vehicles sold nationwide each year.

These standards are based on technologies available today (not potential new technologies), and give automakers flexibility to apply any technology they choose to reduce vehicles' emissions of greenhouse gases. The standards will also save consumers hundreds of dollars in fuel and maintenance costs.


When Congress adopted the Clean Air Act in 1970, California led the country in requiring cleaner automobiles. Congress recognized this leadership by guaranteeing California's right to set its own more stringent emissions controls on motor vehicles. It also allowed other states to adopt California's standards. This right is subject only to the requirement that California receive a waiver from EPA under section 209(b) of the Clean Air Act, which California has requested. The waiver requirement aims to ensure that state standards are at least as protective as the federal standards.

EPA has routinely granted California's waiver requests over 40 times in the last three decades. EPA has repeatedly found that California's motor vehicle emissions control program is more protective than the federal standards, that the State needs separate motor vehicle standards to address conditions in California, and that California's standards are feasible.

There is no basis for EPA to treat this request differently. California's requirements are clearly more protective than the federal standards, as the federal government has not yet set emissions standards for global warming pollution. Moreover, global warming poses a serious threat to California as it will worsen air quality, threaten water supplies for people and agriculture, and damage important ecological systems.

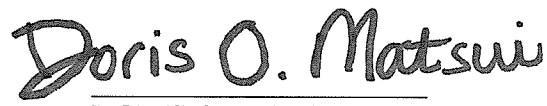
We urge you to grant the requested waiver without delay. The Clean Air Act expressly provided a mechanism for California and other states to take the lead in tackling new air pollution problems. EPA should support these efforts.

Sincerely,



HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress



SHERWOOD BOEHLERT
Member of Congress

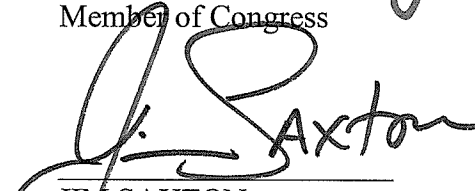

GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress



DORIS O. MATSUI
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER SHAYS
Member of Congress


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress


SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress



JIM SAXTON
Member of Congress


NANCY L. JOHNSON
Member of Congress


HILDA L. SOLIS
Member of Congress



BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress



JIM MCDERMOTT
Member of Congress

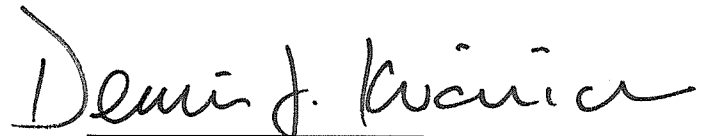

JAMES P. MORAN
Member of Congress


HOWARD L. BERMAN
Member of Congress


ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress


LYNN C. WOOLSEY
Member of Congress


THOMAS H. ALLEN
Member of Congress



DENNIS J. KUCINICH
Member of Congress


JAY INSLEE
Member of Congress


ROBERT E. ANDREWS
Member of Congress


EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress



ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ
Member of Congress



LOIS CAPPS
Member of Congress


BARNEY FRANK
Member of Congress


FRANK PALLONE JR.
Member of Congress


DIANA DEGETTE
Member of Congress


BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress


RUSH D. HOLT
Member of Congress



ADAM B. SCHIFF
Member of Congress



STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



LLOYD DOGGETT
Member of Congress



LORETTA SANCHEZ
Member of Congress



ROBERT WEXLER
Member of Congress



MICHAEL H. MICHAUD
Member of Congress



TAMMY BALDWIN
Member of Congress



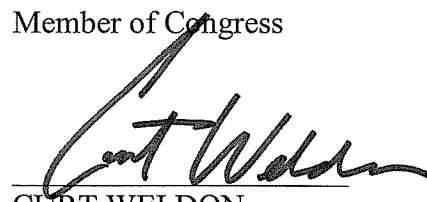
MAURICE D. HINCHEY
Member of Congress



DONALD M. PAYNE
Member of Congress



DENNIS A. CARDOZA
Member of Congress



CURT WELDON
Member of Congress



EDWARD J. MARKEY
Member of Congress




JAMES R. LANGEVIN
Member of Congress




PATRICK J. KENNEDY
Member of Congress



JOHN W. OLVER
Member of Congress


JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress


ANNA G. ESHOO
Member of Congress


MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

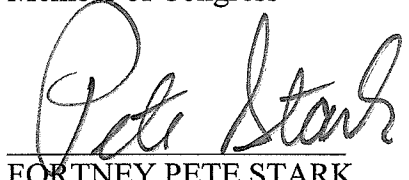

TOM LANTOS
Member of Congress


MICHAEL M. HONDA
Member of Congress



BOB FILNER
Member of Congress

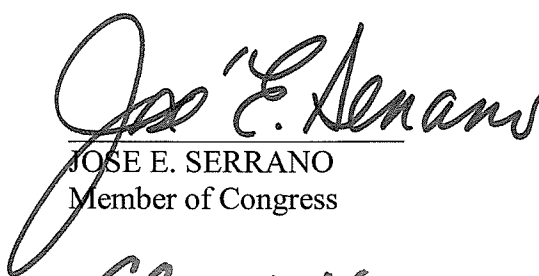

STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Member of Congress

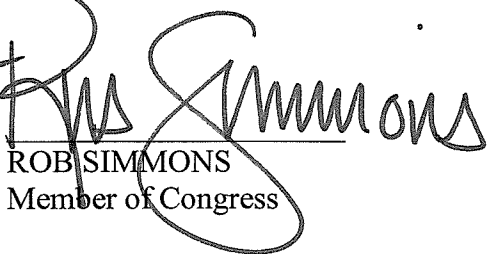

LINDA T. SANCHEZ
Member of Congress


FORTNEY PETE STARK
Member of Congress


MARTIN T. MEEHAN
Member of Congress


ANTHONY D. WEINER
Member of Congress


JOSE E. SERRANO
Member of Congress


ROB SIMMONS
Member of Congress


ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress

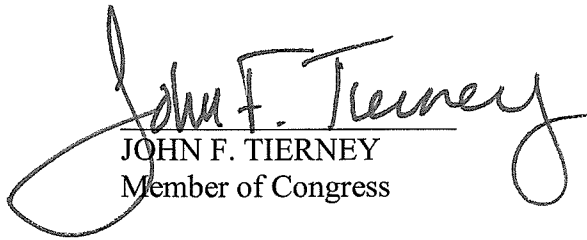

FRANK A. LOBIONDO
Member of Congress



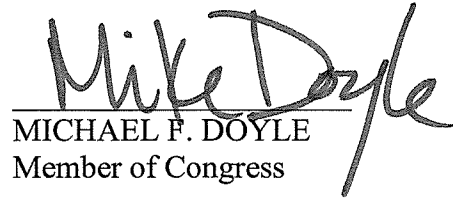
EDOLPHUS TOWNS
Member of Congress



GARY L. ACKERMAN
Member of Congress



JOHN F. TIERNEY
Member of Congress



MICHAEL F. DOYLE
Member of Congress



MICHAEL R. McNULTY
Member of Congress



MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress



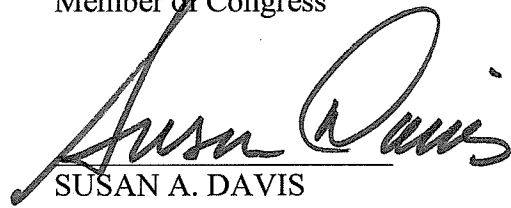
ELLEN O. TAUSCHER
Member of Congress



DIANE E. WATSON
Member of Congress



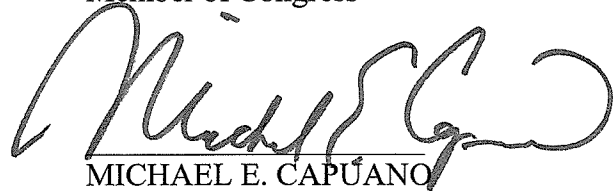
SAM FARR
Member of Congress



SUSAN A. DAVIS
Member of Congress



RICHARD E. NEAL
Member of Congress



MICHAEL E. CAPUANO
Member of Congress



MAXINE WATERS
Member of Congress




XAVIER BECERRA
Member of Congress



PETER A. DEFAZIO
Member of Congress



NANCY PELOSI
Member of Congress

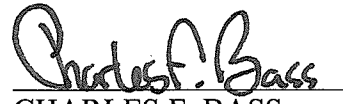

WAYNE T. GILCHREST
Member of Congress

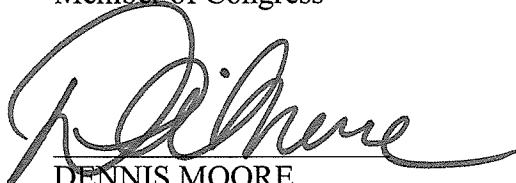

BERNARD SANDERS
Member of Congress


JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress


RAUL GRIJALVA
Member of Congress

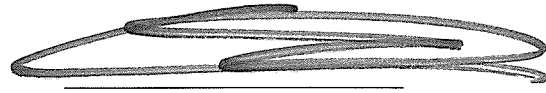

BRIAN BAIRD
Member of Congress



CHARLES F. BASS
Member of Congress

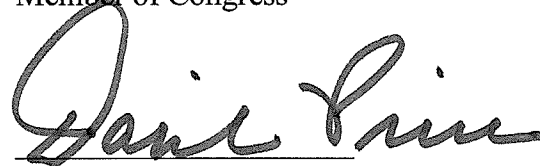

DENNIS MOORE
Member of Congress

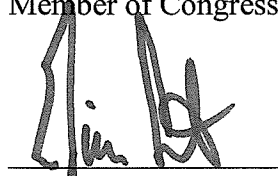

BILL PASCRELL, JR.
Member of Congress


DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN
Member of Congress


DAVID WU
Member of Congress



JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.
Member of Congress

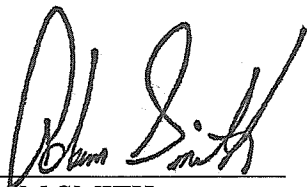

DAVID E. PRICE
Member of Congress


JIM COSTA
Member of Congress

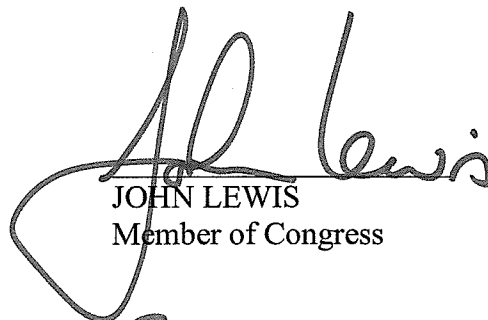

CHAKA FATTAH
Member of Congress


RON KIND
Member of Congress


ROBERT C. SCOTT
Member of Congress




ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress



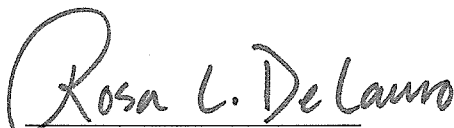
JOHN LEWIS
Member of Congress



MICHAEL N. CASTLE
Member of Congress



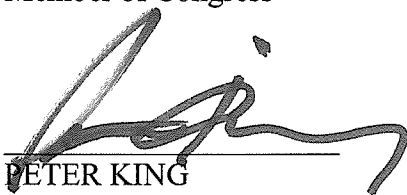
ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress



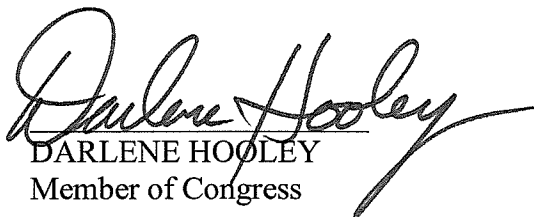
ROSA DELAURO
Member of Congress



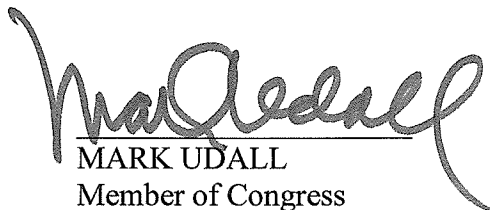
JULIA M. CARSON
Member of Congress



PETER KING
Member of Congress



DARLENE HOOLEY
Member of Congress



MARK UDALL
Member of Congress



LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress



DAVID G. REICHERT
Member of Congress



CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
Member of Congress