



American Jewish Committee

Advancing democracy, pluralism and mutual understanding

Ms. Lorraine White
1516 9th Street, MS-39
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

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April 4, 2008

Dear Ms. White,

Representing more than 175,000 members nationwide, American Jewish Committee (AJC) continues to be an outspoken supporter of California's efforts to promote sound energy policies. Our members wish to inform you that **AJC filed an amicus brief in support of the State of California's** response to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) denial of the waiver request to enact the Clean Car Act (AB 1493).

AJC supports increasing fuel efficiency through the federal Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards and the Clean Car Act. These measures will lower US dependence on oil which poses a threat to our national, environmental, and economic security. Our petrodollars benefit countries such as Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, whose governments promote dangerous and volatile ideologies. Moreover, our oil addiction subjects our economy to price fluctuations such as those caused by recent developments in Ecuador which accounts for 25% of California's foreign oil imports. Transportation fuels also contribute to 40% of greenhouse gas emissions in California, threatening our fragile environment.

California can take the lead reducing oil dependence, cutting greenhouse gas emissions, and protecting our economy by moving our transportation fleet towards fuel efficient and alternative fuel capable vehicles. Once implemented, the Clean Car Act in effect requires fuel efficiency to reach roughly 44 mpg by 2020, compared to the current federal CAFE standards which require 35 mpg by 2020. The Act will dramatically reduce California's dependence on oil. AJC supported California's EPA waiver request in 2007 and will continue to support California and other states' efforts to implement improved fuel efficiency measures.

We hope that we can continue to count on your support and thank you for your commitment to improved fuel efficiency. Please contact AJC's Public Policy department in our Los Angeles office regarding your efforts to help end our country's oil addiction. Thank you again for your ongoing partnership.

Best Regards,

Eli Lipmen
Director of Public Policy
Los Angeles Chapter

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Sherry A. Weinman
President
Los Angeles Chapter