



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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May 26, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Western Governors' Association, we applaud your decision today to increase vehicle mileage standards. While the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act made significant progress in encouraging the production of more fuel efficient vehicles, Western Governors continue to recognize efficiency as the low-hanging fruit for reducing greenhouse gases and increasing our energy security.

Shortly after your election, the WGA called for a national energy plan and laid out in a letter to you our collective policy goals and principles. The need for increased vehicle fuel efficiency was among those recommendations and a central theme in WGA's 2008 "Transportation Fuels for the Future" report. More than 100 stakeholders representing diverse interests participated in developing those recommendations. The new fuel efficiency standard is a significant step forward by increasing the nation's average fuel economy to 35.5 miles per gallon by 2016. This target provides certainty to auto manufacturers, while moving the nation's energy policy in the right direction.

As many of our country's automakers begin restructuring and retooling their operations, the U.S. has the opportunity to position itself as a leader in the production of the next generation of vehicle technologies. This action represents a significant accomplishment among the Administration, automobile manufacturers and environmental groups, and it will help position our country as a major leader in the design and manufacturing of highly fuel-efficient automobiles.

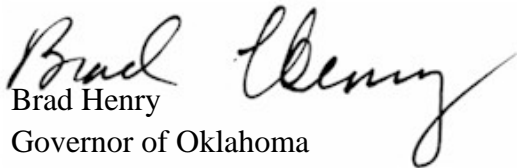
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The Western Governors remain committed to working with the Administration and Congress on the important energy and climate issues that we face and look forward to continuing the dialogue with several of your cabinet officials at our Annual Meeting next month in Park City, Utah.

Sincerely,

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Brad Henry

Governor of Oklahoma

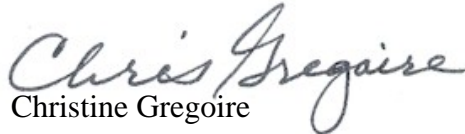
Co-lead Governor for Transportation Fuels

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. Michael Rounds".

M. Michael Rounds

Governor of South Dakota

Co-lead Governor for Transportation Fuels

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Christine Gregoire".

Christine Gregoire

Governor of Washington

Co-lead Governor for Transportation Fuels

cc: Carol Browner, Advisor to the President for Energy and Climate Change
Nancy Sutley, Chair of the President's Council on Environmental Quality