

January 9, 2013

President Barack H. Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As a diverse group of industry, environmental, labor, and science-based organizations representing millions of Americans, we are writing to urge you to finalize the Tier 3 vehicle emission and gasoline standards no later than December 31, 2013. Cleaner gasoline and vehicles provided by Tier 3 will help deliver cleaner air to all Americans and help states meet their Clean Air Act implementation requirements.

Completing this rule will build on the strong foundation of clean car standards that nearly double fuel efficiency and cut dangerous tailpipe pollution in half by 2025, which you achieved in your first term. Tailpipe and fuel standards to control smog-forming and particulate emissions from passenger vehicles are key to reducing the health impacts of poor air quality including asthma, respiratory problems, and premature death. Passenger vehicles remain the second largest emitters of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) – the primary pollutants that form smog – in the U.S. These vehicles also emit more than half of all carbon monoxide pollution and contribute to particulate matter emissions. According to a National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) study, the anticipated Tier 3 program has the potential to cut gasoline vehicle emissions of nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds by 29, 38 and 26 percent respectively. A study by Navigant Economics stated that these pollution reductions will have health benefits with an estimated value of \$5-\$6 billion annually by 2020 and \$10-\$11 billion annually by 2030.

More than 1 in 3 Americans still live in areas where air pollutant levels exceed at least one of the health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Tier 3 will help states reach their NAAQS attainment goals as required under the Clean Air Act because reducing sulfur in gasoline will result in significant, immediate reductions of smog-forming pollutants from the existing fleet of vehicles. As the Tier 2 program demonstrated, the greatest benefits are achieved when the standards for the vehicle and fuel are developed as a system.

Tier 3 will promote innovation in the automotive sector and create jobs in the refining industry. Navigant's study estimated that implementation of the Tier 3 standard will create more than 5,300 permanent jobs in the operation and maintenance of new refining equipment, as well as over 24,000 new jobs over a three year period for equipment installation at the nation's refineries.

The benefits of Tier 3 are significant, and we therefore urge you to work to finalize this standard as soon as possible and before December 31, 2013.

Sincerely,

Ceres
Clean Air Watch

Conservation Law Foundation
Corning Incorporated

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Donaldson Company, Inc.
Emissions Control Technology Association
ENE (Environment Northeast)
Energy Independence Now
Environment America
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Entrepreneurs
Hug Filtersystems
International Union, United Automobile,
Aerospace and Agricultural Implement
Workers of America, UAW

Manufacturers of Emission Controls
Association (MECA)
Moms Clean Air Force
Natural Resources Defense Council
NGK Automotive Ceramics USA, Inc
Safe Climate Campaign
Sierra Club
Tenneco, Inc.
Union of Concerned Scientists