



Dear California Air Resources Board Members:

As nationally recognized consumer organizations that serve to protect the consumer interest at the policy level, we urge you to vote in favor the strongest possible Advanced Clean Cars Program standards at your January board meeting.

Ensuring strong clean car standards protects consumers. In practice, cleaner car standards encourage the development of cars that go farther on a gallon of gas, and of alternatively-fueled vehicles. The result is cleaner, more efficient cars that help reduce America's vulnerability to oil and gasoline price shocks.

Consumers understand the benefits. They have consistently voiced support for California's leadership and clean car standards. The latest *Consumer Reports* survey, for example, found that:

- Eighty-one percent of respondents in California agreed that the state should require all automakers to significantly reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases from new cars, light-duty trucks and SUVs.
- Seventy-five percent of California consumers think California should require automakers to build fleets that include increasing numbers of zero emission vehicles, including electric and hydrogen fuel cell cars.
- Seventy-seven percent of Californians polled said there should be state requirements for oil companies to make cleaner fuels like hydrogen and electricity available for public consumption when there are enough cars in the area that use those fuels.

Now is the time to push for more efficient cars. Last year, gasoline prices set a record high, averaging \$3.53 per gallon, pushing household gasoline expenditures to a record, as well, reaching an average of over \$2850 per year. Analysts say gas prices might be headed to record highs in 2012, with some expecting regular gasoline to climb as high as \$4.59 in California.¹

CFA's latest poll found that over 70% of Americans support states being allowed to continue setting tailpipe emission standards that, as a result, increase fuel economy for motor vehicles. These people—in states across the nation-- are counting on California to lead America to a cleaner, more sustainable, more affordable future. They join us in encouraging you to vote "yes" for the strongest possible Advanced Clean Cars standards at the CARB board meeting in January.

Sincerely,

Mark Cooper, Director of Research for Consumer Federation of America

Rosemary Shahan, President of Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety

David Champion, Director of Auto Test Division at Consumer Reports



The Consumer Federation of America is an association of nearly 280 nonprofit consumer organizations, established in 1968 to advance the consumer interest through research, advocacy, and education.

Consumers Union is the policy and advocacy division of Consumer Reports, an expert, independent, nonprofit organization, whose mission is to work for a fair, safe, and just marketplace for all consumers.

Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety is a national, award-winning non-profit auto safety and consumer advocacy organization that works to save lives, prevent injuries, and protect consumers from auto-related fraud and abuse.

ⁱ "Gas prices might be headed to record highs in 2012, analysts say," The Los Angeles Times, November 8, 2011, by Ronald D. White: <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/nov/08/business/la-fi-gas-prices-20111108>