



Consumer Federation of America

October 11, 2011

The Honorable Darrell E. Issa
Chairman
House Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform
2471 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman
House Oversight and Government Reform
Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs,
Stimulus Oversight and Government Spending
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Dennis Kucinich
Ranking Member
House Oversight and Government Reform
Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs,
Stimulus Oversight and Government
2471 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Subcommittee's Hearing: "Running on Empty: How the Obama Administration's Green Energy Gamble Will Impact Small Business & Consumers", October 12, 2011

Dear Chairmen Issa and Jordan and Ranking Members Cummings and Kucinich:

The House Oversight and Government Reform Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee hearing on the Consumer and Small Business impacts of fuel economy standards would logically benefit from the consumer perspective and analysis. The Consumer Federation of America is an association of nearly 300 nonprofit consumer organizations that was established in 1968 to advance the consumer interest through research, advocacy, and education.

CFA has been working on fuel economy from the consumer point of view for decades. Most recently, CFA has been actively involved on the federal level, in both: the Congress, working on the Energy Independence and Security Act, and at the federal regulatory level, providing input to the Administration, primarily to the agencies, (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Environmental Protection Agency), charged with implementing all standards that affect the fuel economy of vehicles.

Our analysis shows that setting high standards for 2025 will save consumers money, increase auto sales and auto industry employment, enhance national security by dramatically lowering oil imports and reduce pollution, including the emissions of greenhouse gases. Please find, for the record, links to: the executive summary of our comments on the Notice of Inquiry in the proceeding dealing with the setting of long term standards:

<http://www.consumerfed.org/pdfs/CFA-NOI-Comments-10-29-10.pdf>, and an updated analysis

on why strong fuel economy standards are in the public interest:

<http://consumerfed.org/pdfs/CFA-56mpg-FE-Standards-PR-6-28-11.pdf>.

In addition to our technical and economic analyses, the Consumer Federation of America has conducted extensive public opinion polling with regards to vehicle fuel economy and standard setting. As indicated in the analysis of our most recent survey, we find overwhelming support for high standards, not only at the national level, but also in key regions, including Chairman Issa's home state of California, the states that followed California's leadership in adopted the Clean Cars approach, as well as states that make up the traditional auto belt (MI, OH and IN)

This analysis can be found at:

http://www.consumerfed.org/pdfs/CFA_Increasing_Fuel_Economy_Report_revised_5-31-11.pdf.

We look forward to working with the Subcommittee and other Congressional committees with jurisdiction over the substantive areas of law regarding fuel economy and vehicle emissions standards to ensure that our country has the most beneficial standards possible.

Should you have any questions or need additional information please feel free to contact us at (202) 387-6121.

Sincerely,



Mark Cooper
Director of Research
Consumer Federation of America

Jack Gillis
Director of Public Affairs
Consumer Federation of America