

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 25, 2007

The Honorable Allan B. Hubbard
Director
National Economic Council
Executive Office of the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Director Hubbard:

Improving the fuel economy of automobiles and reducing emissions of carbon dioxide are issues of great importance to the Members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

During his address on the State of the Union, the President announced a goal of reducing the Nation's use of gasoline by 20 percent within the next 10 years. To achieve this objective, he called upon Congress to reform and modernize Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for cars and trucks, estimating that this will conserve 8.5 billion gallons by 2017. The President also requested that the amount of renewable fuels produced in the United States be increased to 35 billion gallons.

To assist the Committee with its inquiry, please provide us with all analysis and documentation prepared by the National Economic Council supporting the President's energy proposal no later than Thursday, February 1, 2007. In particular, please delineate any fuel savings technologies, including cost estimates thereof, that were identified to justify a 4 percent annual increase in CAFE standards for both passenger cars and light trucks. Please provide all analysis and documentation supporting the assumption that 8.5 billion gallons of gasoline could be conserved through increasing fuel economy standards, and please provide all analysis and documentation regarding fuel economy credit trading programs, including any evidence supporting the assumption that manufacturers would utilize such programs.

More than six million vehicles on the road today are capable of operating on alternative fuels, and Ford, General Motors, and Chrysler Group have committed to making half of their vehicle production alternative-fuel capable by 2012. Please provide all analysis and documentation supporting the exclusion of initiatives to increase alternative fuel infrastructure from the President's proposal.

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We will be contacting you in the near future to schedule a hearing of the Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality of this Committee to review the Administration's objectives and proposals. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jonathan Cordone, Deputy Chief Counsel to the Committee, at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,



John D. Dingell
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Rick Boucher
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce

cc: The Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce