



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY CENTER
Protecting the Midwest's Environment and Natural Heritage

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Peter Gray 312-795-3715

New Clean Car Standards Will Benefit the Midwest's Economy and Environment

April 1, 2010 – Midwest states should gain direct economic and environmental benefits as the U.S. automotive industry transitions to meet historic new federal clean car standards. Midwest environmental leaders are highlighting the opportunities for job growth and economic development as the new National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards are issued. The rules will significantly increase fuel efficiency and decrease greenhouse gas pollution from new cars and trucks.

The shift toward cleaner cars presents an opportunity for Midwest manufacturing centers, as carmakers develop more efficient technologies and better pollution controls.

“The U.S. EPA's action shows the Clean Air Act working successfully to achieve environmental progress and economic benefits together by advancing clean technologies that provide positive solutions,” said Howard Learner, Executive Director of the Environmental Law & Policy Center. “The Midwest should be a leader in capturing the jobs of the future and building the new, cleaner cars of the future that will increase our energy independence and save consumers billions each year at the gas pump.”

Under the new standards, average fuel economy for passenger cars will increase from 27.5 mpg in 2009 to 37.8 mpg by 2016 – an improvement of nearly 40 percent. Building cleaner cars will reduce lifetime greenhouse gas pollution from vehicles produced between 2012 and 2016 by 655 million metric tons. By 2030, the 2012-2016 standards will reduce GHG emissions from the U.S. light-duty fleet by approximately 21 percent.

American automakers have expressed support for the standards, which will make American cars more competitive at home and abroad. American vehicles manufactured to comply with the federal clean cars standards can also meet the stringent greenhouse gas emissions standards for new vehicles that have been adopted by the European Union, Japan, China and Canada.

The new fuel efficiency and emissions rules are expected to cost approximately \$52 billion and will generate more than \$182 billion in economic benefits between 2012 and 2016. The bulk of new investment by automakers will be for development of innovative fuel efficiency technologies. Those standard-driven research and development investments will create new jobs and put U.S. manufacturers at the forefront of clean car technology.

“Clean car standards and innovative technology will spur new jobs in research and development of pollution control technologies and create new manufacturing opportunities in the Midwest,” said Jack Shaner, Deputy Director of the Ohio Environmental Council.

“Because they reduce fuel consumption, these standards are an important step toward increasing our energy independence and strengthening national security,” said David Gard, Energy Program Director for the Michigan Environmental Council. New standards for cars of the future are

Over...

predicted to save as much as 11.6 billion gallons of gasoline per year by 2016 (equal to half the oil the U.S. imports from Saudi Arabia) and save consumers up to \$31.8 billion annually at the pump.

The coalition working to promote the economic benefits of the new clean car standards includes The Environmental Law & Policy Center, The Hoosier Environmental Council, The Ohio Environmental Council, The Michigan Environmental Council and the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy.

Estimated state-by-state benefits of the federal clean cars standards for the Midwest:

	Gasoline Saved (millions of gallons)	Consumer Gasoline Savings (million \$)	Avoided Global Warming Pollution (million metric tons)	Pollution Reduction Equal to Number of Today's Cars
Illinois	419	\$1,152	3.9	774,034
Indiana	257	\$707	2.4	474,975
Iowa	124	\$340	1.2	228,692
Michigan	409	\$1,126	3.8	756,442
Minnesota	219	\$602	2.0	404,608
North Dakota	29	\$79	0.3	52,775
Ohio	419	\$1,152	3.9	774,034
South Dakota	29	\$79	0.3	52,775
Wisconsin	209	\$576	2.0	387,017
MW TOTAL	2,114	\$5,813	19.8	3,905,352

Analysis of NOPR proposed standards from Environment America "[State Leadership and the National Clean Cars Program](#)."

Average fuel economy required under federal clean car standards:

	2011-base	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Passenger Cars	30.4	33.3	34.2	34.9	36.2	37.8
Light Trucks	24.4	25.4	26.0	26.6	27.5	28.8
Combined	27.6	29.7	30.5	31.3	32.6	34.1

###

The Environmental Law & Policy Center is the Midwest's leading environmental legal advocacy and eco-business innovation organization. www.ELPC.org

The Hoosier Environmental Council aims to set a new path for Indiana, where the people of our state embrace practices and policies that dramatically reduce the footprint of industry, commerce and agriculture on the environment. www.HECweb.org

The mission of the Ohio Environmental Council is to secure healthy air, land, and water for all who call Ohio home. www.OEC.org

The Michigan Environmental Council – a 501(c)(3) charitable organization – is a coalition of more than 70 organizations created in 1980 to lead Michigan's environmental movement in achieving positive change through the political process. www.environmentalcouncil.org

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy is the legal and scientific guardian of Minnesota's environment. www.mncenter.org