



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

July 25, 2007

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairwoman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Boxer and Ranking Member Inhofe:

I want to commend you for your leadership in holding today's hearing to examine the status of California's waiver request from EPA with regards to vehicle emission standards.

As you may know, just two weeks ago, I held the "Serve to Preserve" Climate Change Summit in Miami, Florida to determine ways for Florida to diversify its energy supply, focus on renewable sources of energy, find ways to reduce energy consumption by state employees and reduce vehicle emissions. Florida is the third largest energy consumer in the U.S. and one of the world's top 25 producers of greenhouse gases. Vehicle emissions account for forty-one percent of Florida's greenhouse gas emissions coming from vehicle exhausts.

With almost 1,350 miles of coastline, Florida is particularly vulnerable to the threats associated with climate change. I believe that is our duty to do everything we can to develop and implement solutions to preserve our climate, and I believe we must take action now.

Addressing vehicle emissions is a key component of Florida's action plan. We have chosen to follow the great leadership of my friend, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger by calling for a reduction of emissions in vehicles sold in Florida beginning in 2009.

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I applaud you, Chairwoman Boxer, along with Senator Feinstein and my fellow Floridian and friend Senator Bill Nelson for pushing this issue to the forefront with your legislation calling for EPA to rule on this matter within 30 days.

Allowing states to take the necessary steps to reduce greenhouse gases and to do their part to reduce their carbon footprint is a critical component to any successful national strategy on climate change.

Florida anxiously awaits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Crist". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping tail.

Charlie Crist

CC/kf

Cc: Florida Congressional Delegation