

California Clean Cars Campaign

Global Warming Solutions for a Healthy California

www.calcleancars.org

American Lung Association
of California

Bluewater Network

California League of
Conservation Voters

CLCV Education Fund

California Public Interest
Research Group

Center for Energy Efficiency
and Renewable
Technologies

Coalition for Clean Air

Environment California

Environmental Defense

Natural Resources
Defense Council

Physicians for Social
Responsibility

Planning and Conservation
League

Sierra Club

Steven and Michele Kirsch
Foundation

Union of Concerned
Scientists

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112,000 LETTERS DELIVERED TO GOVERNOR CALLING FOR TOUGH REGULATIONS ON GLOBAL WARMING POLLUTION

(Sacramento, CA) The California Clean Cars Campaign delivered more than 112,000 postcards and letters from California's citizens, local governments, and businesses to Governor Schwarzenegger's office today. The mail called on the governor to continue his support for strong standards to cut global warming pollution from cars and light trucks.

The delivery by children pulling wagonloads of mail arrived two days before the California Air Resources Board considers regulations to implement AB 1493. The landmark law, authored by Assembly Member Fran Pavley (D-Agoura Hills), requires automakers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles beginning with the 2009 model year.

During his gubernatorial campaign, Schwarzenegger promised to implement the law and defend it against automakers' likely court challenges. On behalf of the governor, California Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Terry Tamminen accepted the mail and a petition signed by hundreds of the state's health professionals calling for "the strongest possible regulations to reduce greenhouse gases from motor vehicles."

The mail campaign marks the culmination of a statewide effort to mobilize community support around the implementation of California's vehicle global warming pollution reduction law. Sujatha Jahagirdar of the Environment California Research & Policy Center told the crowd, "We collected letters in just twelve weeks and the outpouring of support shows that Californians believe we need to take immediate action to counter the effects of global warming."

Californians have supported strong environmental laws over the years. According to a July 2004 survey by the Public Policy Institute of California, 81 percent of California voters support the law.

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“Assembly Member Pavley’s ground-breaking law reaffirms California’s worldwide leadership in pollution safeguards and clean vehicle technology,” said Adrienne Alvord, principal consultant. “The Air Resources Board has conducted an exhaustive technical analysis and extensive public outreach around this rulemaking. The staff proposal clearly reflects the Legislature’s intent in passing this law.”

Hundreds of business leaders are among those actively supporting the law; they acknowledge the threat of global warming to California’s environment, way of life and economy, including key industries such as agriculture, tourism, and recreation. The state’s ski industry has already felt the impact of global warming.

“We are California’s canary in a coalmine,” said Bob Roberts, executive director of the California Ski Industry Association. “Spring temperatures have increased in the Sierra two – three degrees since 1950. New studies are predicting major reductions in the Sierra and Cascade snowpack in the next 70 years. Need we say more?”

Roberts noted that SUVs bring a large percentage of skiers and snowboarders to California resorts. “Our message then and now is that SUVs are great, let’s just clean them up.”

A recent analysis published in the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found that global warming could lead to a greater number of heat-related deaths, flooding, and hot barren landscapes. Hotter weather means more smog in California.

Elevated smog levels that are expected to result from global warming may cause serious health problems, including damage to lung tissue, emphysema, bronchitis, increased hospitalizations for cardiac and respiratory illnesses, and asthma. The children who delivered the mail represent one of the groups most likely to face health risks from air pollutants exacerbated by global warming.

Bonnie Holmes-Gen, of the American Lung Association of California and the Health Network for Clean Air, warned of the public health dangers: “Given California’s already high asthma rates, especially among children, we urge the governor to do everything possible to reduce air pollution and global warming.”

***The California Clean Cars Campaign** is a project of the state's leading health, environmental and public interest groups working to ensure successful implementation of California's law to cut vehicle global warming pollution. The law, Assembly Bill 1493, directs the California Air Resources Board to adopt regulations that require carmakers to reduce global warming emissions from new passenger cars and light trucks beginning in 2009. For more information please visit calcleancars.org.*

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