

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

Thank you for your successful efforts to enact the American Rescue Plan and contain the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to working together again soon to advance recovery and rebuild our country stronger. Like you, we believe that tackling the climate crisis and investing in our communities, workers, and clean industries is critical to our country's economic, public health, and environmental future. We stand alongside this administration's efforts to meet this unprecedented challenge head-on and move forward with the strong actions necessary to protect our communities and benefit generations to come.

According to the most recent United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) report, 2021 is a pivotal turning point to confront the global climate emergency. The report is a red alert for our planet. It shows that global efforts are nowhere close to the level of ambition needed to limit climate change to 1.5 degrees and avoid the most catastrophic effects of the climate crisis<sup>1</sup>. Considering these pressing calls for governments worldwide to double down on climate efforts this year, our nation must take quick and aggressive action to combat greenhouse gas emissions. As the largest source of U.S. carbon pollution, addressing transportation sector emissions through strong light-duty vehicle greenhouse gas and fuel economy standards is a critical part of achieving our climate goals and obligations under the Paris agreement. Efforts to address these emissions will also signal to the rest of the world that the U.S. is again a leader in the global fight to fend off the most severe impacts of climate change.

Further, with more than half a million COVID-19 deaths in our nation and communities of color and low-wealth populations bearing the brunt of this pandemic, it is more vital than ever to

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<sup>1</sup> Greater Climate Ambition Urged as Initial NDC Synthesis Report Is Published. (2021, February 26). <https://unfccc.int/news/greater-climate-ambition-urged-as-initial-ndc-synthesis-report-is-published>

prioritize pollution reduction on roads and clean air for everyone, especially for communities that have historically suffered from disproportionate air pollution and, subsequently, higher rates of respiratory illnesses.

Unfortunately, the last administration dismantled the progress made under the Obama-Biden Administration on fuel economy and greenhouse gas emission policies, which led some Members of Congress to fight to codify the Obama-Biden standards through the *Clean and Efficient Cars Act*. We applaud your Day One Executive Order to expeditiously review and reissue new standards and reaffirm our commitment to enact ambitious rules. For these reasons, **we believe the Administration should, at minimum, reinstate the California Clean Air Act waiver and restore the Obama-Biden greenhouse gas and fuel economy standards.** Since the establishment of these standards, technological progress has made it easier to meet or even exceed them, which is why we believe the Obama-Biden standards should serve as the baseline for vehicles sold through 2026 and embolden the next set of more ambitious standards that will move us towards our shared goal of transitioning the fleet to zero-emission vehicles.

As you look forward, we also believe you should set ambitious post-2026 standards that put us on the path to having all light-duty vehicles be zero-emission by 2035. Setting a standard that ensures that 60 percent of the new passenger cars and trucks sold are zero-emission by 2030 will ensure the market starts shifting immediately, making that goal attainable.

The world is already moving towards the inevitability of a zero-emission transportation future. Our country's biggest economic competitors—including China and the European Union—are moving rapidly to create robust domestic electric vehicle manufacturing bases and encourage increased consumer adoption. Further, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, our communities cannot continue to suffer from the health effects of transportation emissions, especially those most vulnerable to toxic air pollution. By implementing ambitious yet achievable standards, you will send a clear signal to automakers to undertake the planning and investment necessary to re-establish the country as a global leader in clean transportation and reaffirm your commitment to the protection of communities nationwide. We stand ready to help you race forward in this critical effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doris Matsui". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Doris" and last name "Matsui" clearly legible.

Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

/s/

Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress

/s/

Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress

/s/

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

/s/

Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

/s/

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

/s/

Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress

/s/

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

/s/

Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

/s/

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

/s/

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

/s/

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

/s/

Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

/s/

Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress

/s/

Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

/s/

Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

/s/

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

/s/

Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

/s/

Mondaire Jones  
Member of Congress

/s/

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

/s/

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

/s/

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

/s/

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

/s/

Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

/s/

Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress

/s/

Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

/s/

Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

/s/

Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

/s/

Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress

/s/

Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress

/s/

Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress

/s/

Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

/s/

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

/s/

Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

/s/

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

/s/

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress

/s/

Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

/s/

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

/s/

Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

/s/

Carolyn Bourdeaux  
Member of Congress

/s/

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

/s/

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

/s/

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

/s/

Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

/s/

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

/s/

Marie Newman  
Member of Congress

/s/

Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

/s/

Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress

/s/

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

/s/

Sean Casten  
Member of Congress

/s/

Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress

/s/

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

/s/

André Carson  
Member of Congress

/s/

Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress

/s/

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

/s/

Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress

/s/

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

/s/

Gerald Connolly  
Member of Congress

/s/

Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress

/s/

Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress

/s/

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Mike Levin  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Abigail Spanberger  
Member of Congress

/s/  
David J. Trone  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress

CC: John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate; Gina McCarthy, White House National Climate Advisor; Ali Zaidi, Deputy White House National Climate Advisor; Michael Regan, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator; Peter Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation.