



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.  
Washington, DC 20590

November 16, 2011

Dear NEPA Contact:

I am pleased to enclose the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which analyzes potential environmental impacts of the agency's proposed Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards.

Concurrent with this Draft EIS, NHTSA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are announcing a joint proposed rule to address the closely intertwined challenges of energy security and climate change. The proposal is consistent with President Obama's directive to improve the fuel economy of and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from model year (MY) 2017-2025 light-duty vehicles through coordinated Federal standards. NHTSA is proposing CAFE standards under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA), as amended, and EPA is proposing GHG emissions standards under the Clean Air Act. Together, the agencies' joint proposed standards represent a harmonized and consistent National Program.

EPA, with its special expertise in the areas of climate change and air quality, served as a cooperating agency in the preparation of this Draft EIS. The Draft EIS compares the environmental impacts of the proposed standards and a range of alternatives, including a "No Action" Alternative, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4347. It considers the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed standards and reasonable alternatives. NHTSA analyzed impacts related to fuel and energy use, air quality, climate, natural resources, and the human environment. In developing the proposed CAFE standards, NHTSA considered "technological feasibility, economic practicability, the effect of other vehicle standards of the Government on fuel economy, and the need of the United States to conserve energy" as required by 49 U.S.C. § 32902(f). NHTSA also considered relevant environmental and safety considerations.

I invite you or your organization to submit written comments on this Draft EIS. In accordance with required procedures, EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of this Draft EIS in the Federal Register. The public comment period will end on January 31, 2012. To ensure consideration, it is important that NHTSA receives your comments before the end of the public comment period. All comments and materials received, including the names and addresses of the commenters who submit them, will become part of the administrative record and will be posted on the web at <http://www.regulations.gov>.



Please carefully follow these instructions in order to ensure that your comments are received and properly recorded:

- Mail an original and two copies of your comments to: Docket Management Facility, M-30, U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590. Please be sure to reference Docket No. **NHTSA-2011-0056**.
- **NHTSA encourages electronic filing of any comments.** To submit comments electronically, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments by clicking on "Help" or "FAQ." File comments on the Draft EIS in Docket No. **NHTSA-2011-0056**.
- Comments may also be submitted by fax to: 202-493-2251.

NHTSA intends to hold a public hearing on the Draft EIS. NHTSA will publish a *Federal Register* notice in the near future providing details on the public hearing and instructions for participation. NHTSA will announce this and other information about its environmental review on the agency's fuel economy website (<http://www.nhtsa.gov/fuel-economy>).

After the comments are reviewed, any significant new issues are investigated, and appropriate modifications are made to the Draft EIS, NHTSA will issue a Final EIS. The Final EIS will address timely comments received on the Draft EIS. Notices in the Federal Register will announce the availability of NHTSA's Final EIS for the proposed CAFE standards.

This Draft EIS is available for public viewing online at <http://www.nhtsa.gov/fuel-economy>, on the public docket at <http://www.regulations.gov> (Docket No. NHTSA-2011-0056), and at the DOT Library (W12-300, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, West Building, Washington, DC 20590). Additional information is available by contacting Angel Jackson with NHTSA's Fuel Economy Division at 202-366-0154 or by e-mail at [NHTSA.NEPA@dot.gov](mailto:NHTSA.NEPA@dot.gov). For assistance, please contact NHTSA toll free at 1-888-327-4236 (for TTY, contact 1-800-424-9153).

Sincerely yours,



David L. Strickland

Enclosure