



Sowers of Justice

Catholic Legislative Network

**Action
Alert**

**Ask Representative Loon to Support
the Minnesota Clean Cars Act on
February 12, 2009.**

February 5, 2009

Background:

Minnesota's transportation sector accounts for a quarter of the state's global warming pollution and more than half of the state's air toxics that contribute to asthma and the degradation of our lakes and rivers. Reducing pollution from on-road vehicles is an important part of the solution, and the best way to ensure Minnesotans have access to cleaner, more efficient cars and trucks is to pass the Clean Cars standards. Unfortunately, there is fierce opposition from auto industry lobbyists who have opposed every important advancement in their industry, including seat belts and air bags.

Solution: The Minnesota Clean Cars Act would require auto manufacturers to produce the same types of cars and trucks we use now, but would make them cleaner and more energy efficient. If this bill passes, Minnesota would join 14 other states and nearly 50% of the population that have already adopted the Clean Cars standards, and would reduce polluting vehicle emissions beyond what the federal standard requires, with the co-benefit of increased fuel economy and improved air quality.

There is fierce opposition from industry lobbyists, and your legislators need to hear RIGHT AWAY from members of the faith community like you who support this smart initiative to ensure cleaner air while also cushioning the blow of rising gas prices.

Recommended Action:

A hearing has been requested for February 12th, and your representative is on the committee. Your voice can further this important legislation if you call or email TODAY to let them know that you support the Minnesota Clean Cars Act.

MESSAGE TO REPRESENTATIVE:

Please act now to care for God's creation by supporting cleaner air, energy independence and consumer savings at the gas pump by voting yes on the "Minnesota Clean Cars Act."

Please provide your name, address, and your congregation name when you call/email.

**Contact Representative Jenifer Loon at 651-296-7449 or
Email at: rep.jenifer.loon@house.mn**

For More Information Contact:

Patricia Benson, Creation Care Consultant on behalf of Catholic Charities Office for Social Justice
651.224.5499 office, 651.247.3213 cell, or via email at benson@lcppm.org

Addendum: Further information

Minnesota Clean Car Act (Sen. John Marty/Rep. Melissa Hortman)

- Minnesota would join 14 other states in adopting the Clean Car standards. (14 states adopted; 7 states pursuing)
- This standard is a vehicle emissions standard and would require car manufacturers to meet an average pollution reduction limit from passenger vehicle tailpipes across their entire fleets.
- Beginning in 2012, these standards will phase in a requirement that all new cars and light-duty trucks sold or registered in Minnesota be manufactured in a way that results in a 30% reduction in emissions by 2016, averaged across a manufacturer's fleet.
- The technology to meet the standards is already in use in many existing vehicles, and the standards are different for cars and trucks—making it possible for trucks to comply.
- This standard will not impact any existing vehicles in use, only new models beginning in 2012.
- This standard will not ban the use or sale of trucks, minivans, and SUVs.
- This legislation is still necessary despite the increased federal fuel economy standards (CAFE) and is tougher than the 2007 federal energy law.
- It will reduce global warming gases from vehicles by twice as much by 2016 – than the federal law.
- The Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group's analysis shows this standard will produce a savings of 13 million metric tons of global warming pollution, and \$260 million in savings to consumers in Minnesota, as a direct savings through improved efficiency and fuel savings at the pump.
- States that have already adopted these standards represent close to 50 percent of the new cars sales market in the US.
- Minnesota's Attorney General Lori Swanson joined the lawsuit in 2008 against the EPA for denying California the waiver to implement its law. There are now 19 states, including Iowa, that have joined the lawsuit.
- President-elect Obama has already directed EPA to reconsider granting California and the waiver necessary to implement the Clean Cars standards.
- This standard supports Minnesota's alternative fuels market by giving 'extra credit' for use of E85.