GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

October 24, 2006

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to again urge you to take action on a long-standing request for a waiver of federal preemption of California's greenhouse gas emissions standards for vehicles.

On December 21, 2005, the California Air Resources Board requested that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant a waiver to allow California to exercise its authority under the Clean Air Act to set vehicle emissions standards in the state. The EPA has granted this request more than 40 times over the past three decades. Yet this latest request has been ignored with no explanation. I wrote to you on April 10, 2006, to ask for your assistance in directing the EPA to grant this waiver request without further delay. There is still no decision or even an indication of movement on my request.

Now, nearly one year after California's initial request, I am asking again for your help with the immediate approval of this waiver. Further delay will result in California losing its right as a state to develop forward-thinking environmental policies. I urge you to take this action so that California can continue to be a global leader in the regulation of vehicle emissions and help stimulate American economic growth with the development of new industries and technologies in this area.

In the absence of a coherent federal policy to limit harmful greenhouse gas emissions, I worked with the California Legislature to sign into law AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act. AB 32 balances market mechanisms and the needs of our economy, while establishing historic greenhouse gas emissions goals and creating the world's most comprehensive emissions reduction program. This effort will allow us to reduce emissions and costs to industry, and stimulate innovation so that more reductions can be realized over time. However, in order to continue our progress, we need the federal government to recognize California's right to set its own vehicle emissions standards as we have previously requested.

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Ignoring the challenge of climate change will not only threaten our collective future, but will be a significant drag on the economic vitality of our state and nation within the world economy. The economic arguments for market-based solutions to global warming are overwhelming. Cutting-edge technologies in this area are creating entire new industries, and properly designed emissions trading programs can reduce compliance costs significantly compared to alternatives.

I know that we can craft policies that help business and enhance, not compromise, environmental goals. I urge you to do your part in helping us take this historic step forward.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger

cc: Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency