

May 17, 2009

Hon. Raymond H. Lahood, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE – 9th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20590

Hon. Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. – Room 3000
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Secretary and Madam Administrator:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (“Honda”) recognizes the benefit for the country of a National Program to address GHGs and fuel economy and the historic announcement of EPA and NHTSA’s intent to jointly propose a rule to set standards for both. Honda fully supports proposal and adoption of such a National Program, which it understands will be subject to full notice-and-comment rulemaking, affording all interested parties including Honda the right to participate fully, comment, and submit information, the results of which are not pre-determined but depend upon processes set by law. Honda fully supports proposal and adoption of such a National Program. Honda welcomes this opportunity to be a partner in helping to advance a harmonized National Program. Honda also commits to working with EPA and NHTSA, the states, and other stakeholders to help our country address global climate change and the need to reduce oil consumption by developing this kind of strong, coordinated national program for the model years after 2016.

In order to promote the adoption of the National Program, Honda commits to take the following actions, subject to the understandings described below. Honda also stands ready to enter into any appropriate agreements to effectuate these commitments.

(1) Honda commits to take appropriate action within its authority to have all pending litigation in the various state courts, U.S. District Courts, and U. S. Circuit Courts of Appeals challenging California's regulation of GHG emissions, including litigation concerning preemption under EPCA of California’s and other state’s GHG standards stayed upon issuance of the May, 2009 Notice of intent to conduct rulemaking, including instructing (to the fullest extent of its voting rights) the trade associations which are parties to the pending litigation to request that such litigation be stayed.

(2) Honda commits to take appropriate action within its authority to have all such litigation dismissed (and not to renew any such litigation with respect to MYs 2009-2016), including instructing (to the fullest extent of its voting rights) the trade associations which are parties to the pending litigation to request that such litigation be dismissed (and not to renew any such litigation with respect to MYs 2009-2016), if -

(i) EPA proposes national GHG standards and NHTSA proposes CAFE standards for MY 2012-2016 as substantially described in the May, 2009 Notice of intent to conduct rulemaking,

(ii) California takes the following two actions, in a manner that is binding on states that adopt and enforce California's GHG standards under CAA section 177:

(a) California revises its standards on GHG emissions from new motor vehicles for MYs 2009 through 2011, such that compliance with the standards can be demonstrated based on the GHG emissions from the fleet of vehicles sold in California and the states that adopt and enforce California's GHG emissions standards under section 177 of the CAA. This would expand the averaging pool for compliance purposes from the fleet of vehicles sold in California to the larger fleet of vehicles sold in California and these other states;

(b) California revises its standards on GHG emissions from new motor vehicles for MYs 2012 through 2016, such that compliance with the GHG emissions standards adopted by EPA shall be deemed compliance with the California GHG emissions standards; and

(iii) California confirms that under its standards for GHG emissions from new motor vehicles for MYs 2009 through 2011 manufacturers have the right under California's current regulations to use data generated by the CAFE test procedures, vehicle selection, and other testing protocols, including substitution of CAFE test data for previously submitted test data, to demonstrate compliance. If California does not make such confirmation, then California revises its standards to this effect. In addition, California confirms that a 45 day condition on the MY 2009 Executive Orders means that if a waiver is granted under CAA section 209, then a manufacturer has to be in compliance with all of the data submission or other requirements, related to issuance of the Executive Order, that would have applied on or before that 45 day date if the waiver had been granted previously. This does not accelerate in any way any other requirements under the regulations, for example manufacturers can continue to provide CAFE test data after that date and through the year under the CAFE testing protocols, and do not need to demonstrate compliance with the annual average until after the end of the year.

(3) Honda commits that it will not contest any final decision by EPA granting California's request for a waiver of preemption under section 209 of the CAA for its GHG emissions standards for motor vehicles for MYs 2009-2016, if California revises its regulations as described above

(4) If EPA proposes national GHG standards and NHTSA proposes CAFE standards for MY 2012-2016 as substantially described in the May, 2009 Notice, and the agencies adopt standards as substantially proposed, Honda will not contest these rules.

Honda believes that the actions discussed in the letter could occur under a timeline as follows:

- EPA and DOT issue the Notice of Intent and various companies and other parties stay pending litigation
- EPA makes a final decision upon reconsideration of California's request for a waiver.
- EPA and DOT issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
- California issues a final rule that revises its regulations
- Companies dismiss pending litigation upon final adoption of regulatory changes by California
- EPA and DOT issue a Notice of Final Rulemaking

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Mendel', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John Mendel
Executive Vice President
Automobile Sales

cc: Carol Browner