



Illinois Climate Action Network

Illinois CAN

Support SB 1941 - HB 422: The Illinois Clean Cars Act

Cheaper...Cleaner...Healthier...More Secure...Better for the Economy

What is the Illinois Clean Cars Act? Automakers build cleaner cars for some states and dirtier cars for others. The cleaner cars are sold in the 14 states representing 42% of the U.S. automobile market that have adopted the same strong tailpipe pollution limits pioneered in California for new cars and light trucks. *Illinois is among the states that receive the dirtier cars.*

The Clean Cars Act would make Illinois the 15th Clean Car State. To meet the standard, automakers would increasingly reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions (measured on a fleet-wide average basis) produced by new cars and light trucks sold in Illinois between 2009 and 2020. The Act would enhance consumers' choice in vehicles and bring cleaner, more fuel-efficient automobiles to Illinois.

PRESIDENT OBAMA OPENS DOOR TO CLEAN CARS IN ILLINOIS

"Increasing fuel efficiency in our cars and trucks is one of the most important steps that we can take to break our cycle of dependence on foreign oil . . . California has shown bold and bipartisan leadership through its effort to forge 21st century standards, and over a dozen states have followed its lead. But instead of serving as a partner, Washington stood in their way . . . The days of Washington dragging its heels are over. My administration will not deny facts -- we will be guided by them." — President Barack Obama speaking on Jan.26, 2009, when he directed U.S. EPA to reconsider its Bush-era denial of 15 states' request to implement the unified clean cars standard.

Why Bring Clean Cars to Illinois?

Clean Cars Save Consumers Money

- The Clean Car Standards would save Illinoisans \$2,000-\$3,000 in gasoline over the lifetime of their car. For a person paying cash up-front for a car, the payback period would be 2.2 to 2.5 years.
- With a five-year auto loan, a consumer would save \$115-\$170 per year during the loan period, followed by \$360 to \$410 per after the loan is paid back (based on \$3/gallon).

Clean Cars are Better for the Economy and Energy Security

- More than 2/3 of every dollar saved on gasoline is spent in-state, on employment-intensive goods and services, which largely have in-state supply chains and yield a multiplier effect on job creation.
- The Clean Cars Standard would create nearly 12,500 jobs, including nearly 2,000 union jobs. Clean cars also increase auto industry stability by decoupling demand for new cars from gas prices.
- The Clean Cars Standard will boost Illinois' ethanol industry because E85 vehicles help automakers meet the standard, and because the standards ensure that more E85-capable cars actually burn E85.
- Illinoisans would annually consume 280 million fewer gallons of gas in 2020 with clean cars, and at \$1.91/gallon (estimate of Midwestern gas price by Energy Information Administration), this represents avoided fuel costs of about \$530 million for Illinois consumers in 2020 alone.

Clean Cars Protect People's Health

- In some Chicago neighborhoods, more than 25% of children under age 12 have asthma—that's twice the national average. Statewide, Illinois has among the nation's highest asthma rates, at 11%, and one of the highest asthma death rates.
- Cleaner Cars cut harmful pollution that causes asthma attacks, cancer, and heart problems.
- The Clean Cars Standard would prevent 80,000-250,000 lost school days, 100,000 cases of respiratory symptoms, and dozens of premature deaths.

Clean Car Standards Increase Vehicle Choice

- Some auto manufacturers only ship certain hybrid vehicles to states that have adopted the Clean Cars Standard. A recent NBC News story in Chicago highlighted the difficulty of obtaining hybrid vehicles at 12 dealerships in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana.
- Dozens of United Auto Workers-produced cars—including Dodge, Ford, Chevrolet, Pontiac, Saturn, Toyota, GMC, and others—already meet the Clean Cars Standard.

Clean Cars Help Stop Global Warming

- Illinois is the 7th largest source of global warming pollution in the country, with the transportation sector contributing more than 25% of that pollution.
- The clean car standards would reduce greenhouse gases in Illinois 41% more through 2020, or 13.4 million tons, compared to the proposed federal fuel economy standards.

ILLINOISANS SUPPORT THE CLEANS CARS ACT... A May 2008 Illinois Climate Action Network poll found that nearly 89 percent of surveyed Illinoisans said they would support or strongly support clean cars legislation. Over 150 organizations and VIPs have signed letters of support, including:

Consumer and Civic

Illinois Public Interest Research Group
League of Women Voters
North Suburban Peace Initiative
Chicagoland Bicycle Federation

Business

Foresight Design Initiative
Business and Professional People for the Public Interest
Brenda Palms Barber, CEO, North Lawndale Employment Network
Ramon Becerra, Chairman, Chicago Metropolitan Labor Council
August Sallas, President, Hispanic American Labor Council
James Carey, President, USA Geothermal
Angela Jones, Greentone Design
John Mascarenhas, Sustainable Business Alliance
Jorge Cestou, Executive Director, Little Village Community Development Corporation

Faith

American Jewish Committee
Faith in Place
Illinois Conference of Churches
Jewish Federation of Metro Chicago
La Rabida Children's Hospital
Protestants for the Common Good
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Government

Governor Pat Quinn
The City of Chicago
Illinois State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias

Health

Asian Human Services
Chicago Asthma Consortium
Chicago Thoracic Society
Illinois Academy of Family Physicians
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition
Nursing Assembly
Respiratory Health Assn. of Metropolitan Chicago
Suburban Asthma Consortium

Environment

Alliance for the Great Lakes
Asian Health Coalition of Illinois
Environment Illinois
Environmental Law and Policy Center
Friends of the Parks
Illinois Environmental Council
National Parks and Conservation Assn.
Shedd Aquarium
Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter
Openlands
Union of Concerned Scientists

For More Information:

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