



Illinois Climate Action Network

Illinois CAN

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For More Information, Contact:
Brian Granahan, 312-291-0696 x305

Obama Opens the Door to Cleaner Cars for Illinois *Statement of Environment Illinois Staff Attorney Brian Granahan on behalf of ICAN*

CHICAGO, Illinois—The Illinois Climate Action Network (ICAN), a diverse coalition of advocacy organizations formed to tackle climate change, applauds President Barack Obama's directive to reconsider 14 states' application for stricter regulation of automobile tailpipe pollution.

Through this directive, President Obama sends a strong signal that pollutants from automobiles can and should be regulated by aggressive state-level standards.

President Obama is clearing the way for states to move forward, and we call on the General Assembly to employ his vision by passing the Illinois Clean Cars Act. The Illinois Clean Cars Act, sponsored by Rep. Karen May (D-Highland Park) and Sen. Terry Link (D-Waukegan), allows Illinois to join 14 other states with automobile tailpipe pollution controls up to 30% stronger than existing federal standards.

The Illinois Clean Cars Act would improve our economy by saving the average Illinois family hundreds a year at the gas pump through increased fuel efficiency. It would enhance national security by decreasing our dependence on foreign oil, help fight global warming, and protect public health by cutting soot, smog, and cancer-causing air toxics.

Illinois citizens agree. A May 2008 ICAN poll found that nearly 89 percent of surveyed Illinoisans said they support Clean Cars legislation.

It is time for our political leaders to step forward and support this vital legislation. We urge the Illinois General Assembly to capitalize on this opportunity to follow through on President Obama's directive and pass the Illinois Clean Cars Act.

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The Illinois Climate Action Network is a coalition led by 12 diverse groups committed to tackling global warming through state-level policy work. For more information about ICAN, visit:
<http://www.illinoisclimateactionnetwork.org/>

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