



September 24, 2009

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

We are writing regarding Senator Murkowski's Amendment Number 2530 to H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. As manufacturers, we are sympathetic to the thrust of Senator Murkowski's amendment that the Congress -- and not simply EPA acting under the provisions of the current Clean Air Act -- should determine how best to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions economy-wide.

However, the amendment raises additional issues that must be considered where complicated and interconnected environmental and legal issues are at stake. We are concerned that due to the complex interactions among regulations under the various sections of the Clean Air Act, the amendment may impact significantly pending regulations in the mobile source sector -- despite language in the amendment that would appear to leave the sector unaffected. In a letter to Senator Feinstein dated September 23, Administrator Jackson stated EPA's interpretation that the Murkowski amendment as filed would "make it impossible for the Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate the light-duty vehicle greenhouse-gas emissions standards that the agency proposed on September 15, 2009."

While the author of the amendment appears not to intend this outcome, we feel compelled to express our concerns. It is critical that the national program for regulating greenhouse gas emissions from autos be finalized early next year. Failure to do so would subject automakers to a patchwork of conflicting state and federal regulations.

Therefore, we respectfully oppose the adoption of the Murkowski amendment as written to H.R. 2996.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave McCurdy".

Dave McCurdy
President & CEO
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Stanton".

Michael Stanton
President & CEO
Association of International Automobile
Manufacturers