

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

**CLOSE THE LIGHT TRUCK LOOPHOLE
COSPONSOR HR 1605**

Dear Colleague:

July 11, 2003

THE TIMING IS RIGHT...

Cars and light trucks consume 40% of the oil used in the US every day – 8 million barrels – and emit 20% of US carbon dioxide pollution that is causing global warming. Closing the light truck loophole is the biggest single step the US can take to reduce oil consumption and curb global warming and will contribute to reducing US dependence upon foreign oil.

Unfortunately, there have been few attempts to conserve oil through improving the fuel economy of our nation's light trucks. For the last 10 years, the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for light trucks have remained at about 20.7 miles per gallon (mpg), as compared with 27.5 mpg for cars. Due to rising sales of light trucks, which now account for approximately half all vehicles sold, the fleetwide average fuel economy has fallen to 24 miles per gallon, well below its 1987 peak of 26.2 mpg.

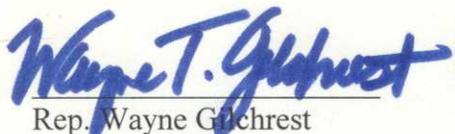
Our bill requires light trucks, which are now used overwhelmingly as passenger vehicles, to simply meet the fuel efficiency standards for cars by the year 2011. In order to ensure that manufacturers can meet this goal, the efficiency improvements are phased in to accommodate improving technology and the cost of its development to light truck manufacturers. Increasing fuel economy can be done without sacrificing safety. The 2001 National Academy of Sciences report on CAFE found that numerous new technologies have been developed that can improve fuel economy without reducing weight or size.

THE BENEFITS ARE CLEAR-- CLOSING THE LIGHT TRUCK LOOPHOLE WOULD:

- **Save one million barrels of oil a day;**
- **Reduce oil imports by 10%; and**
- **Prevent more than 200 million tons of carbon dioxide– a major greenhouse gas and the biggest single cause of global warming – from entering the atmosphere each day.**

To cosponsor HR 1605, please call or email Edith Thompson in the office of Rep. Gilchrest (5-5311) or Abbie Meador in the office of Rep. Olver (5-5335).

Sincerely,

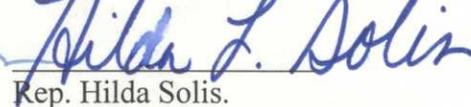

Rep. Wayne Gilchrest


Rep. John Olver


Rep. Sherwood Boehlert


Rep. Ed Markey


Rep. Nancy Johnson


Rep. Hilda Solis.