

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

As the nation debates energy policy, we commend your attention to the following article and invite you to join us in sending a letter in support of CAFE standards to President Bush.

## Ford: Exhaust warms climate

Automaker forms group to study tailpipe emissions; environmentalists are cautious

By Mark Truby / The Detroit News

DEARBORN -- Ford Motor Co. said Thursday that vehicle exhaust appears to contribute to global warming, an unusually candid admission that could have broad implications for the automotive industry.

The company, while offering no immediate solutions and criticizing current emissions policies, said it has formed an internal task force to study ways to reduce tailpipe pollution.

Ford's statements could focus more attention on the automobile's contribution to global warming, and escalate the debate over the nation's environmental and energy policies now being reshaped by the Bush administration.

The comments -- included in Ford's second annual corporate citizenship report -- reflect some of the personal beliefs of Chairman William Clay Ford Jr., an industrialist and avowed environmentalist.

One of his stated priorities is transforming the automaker into a more socially conscious company.

"The global temperature is rising and the evidence suggests that the shift is being affected by human activity, including emissions related to

fossil fuels used for transportation," Bill Ford wrote in the report. "We believe it is time to take appropriate action."

Environmentalists, usually die-hard critics of the auto industry, praised Ford for taking responsibility for lowering emissions.

The company estimated that its cars and manufacturing facilities pump 400 million metric tons of carbon dioxide into the air each year.

Environmentalists and many scientists say high levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere trap heat, creating a greenhouse effect which warms the Earth's climate. However the causes and extent of global warming are hotly debated among scientists and others.

### Impact underscored

This marks the second consecutive year Ford has used the report to draw attention to the auto industry's impact on the environment.

Ford made national headlines last year by saying its popular, but gas-guzzling sport-utility vehicles created a dilemma for a company that strives to be an environmental leader.

Bill Ford has said previously on several occasions that global warming is a serious issue the industry needs to address. But this is the first time the company has said it was time to take action.

Ford's pledge to take seek solutions was welcomed by environmentalists.

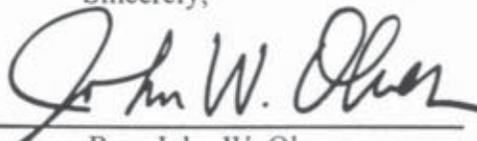
"We are applauding Ford for their statement about the seriousness of global warming," said Daniel Becker, director of the Sierra Club's global warming and energy program.

"They are committed to cutting this type of pollution. It's fair to say Ford is accelerating the race for cleaner cars."

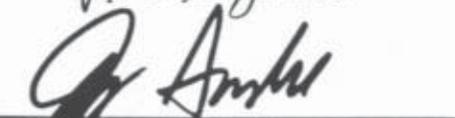
Our bipartisan letter urges the President to include improved Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards in his national energy policy.

To join us in signing the letter on the reverse side of this page, please contact us, or have your staff contact Peter Irvine in Rep. Olver's office (5-5335) or Sally McGee in Rep. Gilchrest's office (5-5311).

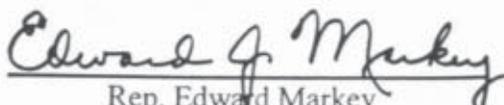
Sincerely,

  
Rep. John W. Olver

  
Rep. Wayne Gilchrest

  
Rep. Jay Inslee

  
Rep. Nancy Johnson

  
Rep. Edward Markey

  
Rep. Sherwood Boehlert