



Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Senator Mary Jo White
Chairman

Patrick Henderson, Executive Director

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Letters to the Editor
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
34 Blvd. of the Allies
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Dear Editor:

I write in response to your recent article, "Cars facing stricter emissions limits".

As usual, Mr. Hopey gives no fair representation of both sides of the issue concerning the Rendell Administration's efforts to impose California vehicle emission standards on Pennsylvania citizens. His news article simply regurgitates press releases and statements favorable to letting California set our emission standards, and several obvious misstatements are left unchallenged.

Hopey's statement that former Governor Ridge adopted and intended for Pennsylvania to implement the California standards in 2006 is flat out false. Legislators have highlighted statements from DEP officials who stated the department's intent to maintain the federal vehicle emission standards all along. Incidentally, these standards which we sought to preserve were adopted by none other than former President Clinton in 1999, and require vehicles made today to be 95% cleaner than those made seven years ago.

Additionally, chalking up opposition to the Rendell plan as partisan wrangling belittles the serious policy implications of adopting the California standards. A bi-partisan group of senators voted to maintain the federal standards in Pennsylvania, including the Senate Democratic leader and the Senate Democratic chairmen of the Environmental Resources and Transportation Committees.

If Rendell truly felt the California standards were better for Pennsylvania, he should have made that case, instead of misleading the public and General Assembly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Jo White".

Mary Jo White, Chairman
Senate Environmental Resources
& Energy Committee