

CLEAN
FUELS
DEVELOPMENT
COALITION

CFDC

March 10, 2021

The Honorable Michael Regan
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C.

Dear Administrator Regan:

On behalf of our organization, congratulations on your appointment to serve as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. The Clean Fuels Development Coalition (CFDC) is a nonprofit organization supporting the production and use of clean, renewable transportation fuels. We have a broad base of support from biofuel, automotive, agriculture, and public interest stakeholders and have been engaged in these issues since 1988.

We have a long working relationship with EPA going back to when I served on the Reg-Neg Committee for the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments. We have a particular interest in the Title II provisions that established several clean fuel programs. President Biden's laudable initiatives focusing on climate, environmental justice, and health through the Executive Orders are timely and welcome to all who value the environment and protecting public health.

The Executive Order on Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis identifies the immediate need to address the woefully inadequate fuel economy rule of the previous Administration. As you know, the EO directs the "agency" to consider the stakeholder views with regard to suspending, revising, or rescinding the Safer Affordable Fuel Efficient Vehicles Rule (SAFER). We would like to be among the first to urge EPA to "Repeal and Replace" this rule. In addition to the overarching objective of establishing a single national program, we urge you to consider the immediate benefits that would result from an orderly transition to a national standard for cleaner burning, lower cost, and higher performance high octane gasoline.

CLEAN
FUELS
DEVELOPMENT
COALITION

CFDC

While the development of electric vehicles will play a key role in reducing emissions, with 270 million cars on the road today and less than 2% of them EVs, internal combustion engines using gasoline will remain the primary form of propulsion for decades. Hundreds of billions of gallons of gasoline using toxic aromatics as the source of octane present a significant health threat to the public.

There are readily available alternatives to these petroleum based, toxic compounds. Despite requesting information on how it could best establish a national standard for higher octane gasoline, and specifically citing the benefits of higher blends of ethanol, EPA failed to take any action. Increasing the octane standard to a 98-100 RON would result in efficiency gains of 5-7% in short order.

The Honorable Michael Regan
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
March 10, 2021, page 2

In so doing it presents a pathway to comply with a number of important provisions of the CAA of 1990, notably the requirement that EPA control toxic and carbon intensive hazardous air pollutants as stipulated in Section 202 (I). This provision has been ignored by the agency for decades and aromatic levels in gasoline have reached dangerously high levels, in direct violation of Congressional intent.

As a result of the SAFE rule failing to address these issues, we along with several like-minded organizations have supported a challenge to EPA. **Our Amicus Brief** <https://cleanfuelsdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/NFU-Amicus-Brief.pdf> in support of the National Farmers Union and others makes a compelling scientific and legal argument as to why increasing octane while controlling aromatics should be part of any fuel economy rule. The Brief is supported a wide range of stakeholders, including many of the nation's Governors.

We respectfully urge you to direct your staff to review this information and hope there is an opportunity to brief the agency in more detail. The fuel economy rule is one of the most immediate and tangible actions the Biden Administration can take, and higher octane, low carbon fuels are component is central to that effort. We are so encouraged by your statement at your confirmation hearing last week that the agency will be driven by science and driven by the rule of law.

CLEAN
FUELS
DEVELOPMENT
COALITION

CFDC

Thank you for your consideration of these views and we again congratulate you on your appointment and look forward to working with you in the future. Please let me know if there is a time when we might be able to follow up with you, either in person or virtually.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Durante

Douglas A Durante
Executive Director

Cc The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, U.S. Department of Transportation
The Honorable Jennifer Granholm, U.S. Department of Energy
The Honorable Tom Vilsack, U.S. Department of Agriculture
The Honorable Gina McCarthy, the White House