



Sierra Club California Statement on Rep. Darrell Issa's Attack on California's Clean Air Authority

BY SIERRA CLUB CA, ON NOVEMBER 14TH, 2011

For Immediate Release: November 11, 2011

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SACRAMENTO—California Congressman Darrell Issa this week levied an attack on California's historic authority to reduce air pollution from automobiles. Through the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which he chairs, Rep. Issa expanded his investigation into development of new federal auto fuel economy standards to include the California Air Resources Board. In a letter dated November 9, Congressman Issa implies that California's clean air standards for automobiles violate federal law. Sierra Club California Director Kathryn Phillips released the following statement:

"Mr. Issa is waging war on Americans' ability to access better cars, and California's clean car standards are just the latest target," said Kathryn Phillips, Director, Sierra Club California. "California's auto emissions standards are legal, have helped reduce health costs associated with air pollution, have brought better cars to the market, and have led to a growing automobile design and equipment manufacturing industry in the state. That means cleaner air and more jobs. It's simply wrongheaded to try to block California's standards by harassing the agency responsible for developing them.

"Mr. Issa's activity hints of the kind of money-wasting misuse of Congressional power Americans saw during the Army-McCarthy hearings in the 1950s. He is engaging in a modern-day witch hunt, targeting any agency—whether it be federal or state—that attempts to clean up tailpipe emissions from autos. His ultimate victims are California consumers."

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