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*CALIFORNIA PIRG*  
*CITIZENS' UTILITY BOARD OF OREGON*  
*COLORADO PIRG*  
*THE CONSUMER ALLIANCE (MD)*  
*CONSUMER ACTION*  
*CONSUMER FEDERATION OF AMERICA*  
*CONSUMER FEDERATION OF THE SOUTHEAST*  
*CONSUMERS ASSISTANCE COUNCIL (MA)*  
*CONSUMERS FOR AUTO RELIABILITY AND SAFETY*  
*CONSUMERS UNION*  
*CONSUMERS UNITED (MN)*  
*FLORIDA CONSUMER ACTION NETWORK*  
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*MASSACHUSETTS CONSUMERS' COALITION*  
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*NORTH CAROLINA CONSUMERS COUNCIL, INC.*  
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*PIRGIM (MI)*  
*UTILITY CONSUMERS' ACTION NETWORK (CA)*  
*VIRGINIA CITIZENS CONSUMER COUNCIL*  
*WECO FUND, INC.*  
*WISCONSIN CONSUMERS LEAGUE*  
*WISCONSIN PIRG*

October 6, 2005

**Re: *Support for Boehlert-Markey Amendment to Increase Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards***

Dear Representative,

The House will soon take up HR 3893, "The Gasoline for America's Security Act of 2005." The bill fails to include the most important measure to promote American energy security – improvement in the fuel efficiency of American automobiles and light trucks. A bipartisan amendment sponsored by Representatives Boehlert and Markey that mandates an 8-mile per gallon increase in the corporate average fuel efficiency (CAFÉ) standard will be offered on the floor. We urge you to vote for this amendment.

Voting for the Boehlert-Markey amendment is a vote for American consumers and American energy security.

- Using an estimated average gasoline price of only \$2.50 per gallon, the Union of Concerned Scientists estimates this measure will save consumers \$33 billion in 2015 and \$70 billion in 2020.

- It would also reduce oil imports by almost 1 million barrels per day in 2015 and 2.5 million in 2020.
- A reduction of 1 million barrels per day of consumption equals about 6 percent of the refining capacity in the U.S. and would more than double the “spare” refinery capacity in the U.S.

When this amendment was put to a vote in April of this year, it was defeated by only 39 votes. Two hundred and fifty-four members of the House voted against this increase in efficiency when the price of gasoline was \$2.25 per gallon. Last month, the average price of gasoline was about \$2.90. That increase in gasoline prices cost consumers over \$7 billion in the month of September. Business as usual is no longer acceptable.

Reducing our gasoline consumption is the single best way to reduce pressures on the refinery market. This amendment is an indispensable step in the right direction. We urge you to vote for the Boelkert-Markey amendment to increase automobile fuel economy standards.

Sincerely,

Mark Cooper  
Director of Research  
Consumer Federation of America  
(301) 384-2204

Ken McEldowney  
Executive Director  
Consumer Action

Barbara Evans  
Executive Director  
Alabama Watch

Walter Dartland  
Executive Director  
Consumer Federation of the Southeast

Steve Cleary  
Director  
Alaska PIRG

Paul Schrader  
Executive Director  
Consumers Assistance Council (MA)

Phyllis Rowe  
President Emeritus  
Arizona Consumers Council

Rosemary Shahan  
President  
Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety

Diane Brown  
Executive Director  
Arizona PIRG

Gene Kimmelman  
Senior Director, Public Policy and Advocacy  
Consumers Union

Emily Rusch  
Consumer Advocate  
California PIRG

Niel Ritchie  
Director  
Consumers United (MN)

Bob Jenks  
Executive Director  
Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon

Bill Newton  
Executive Director  
Florida Consumer Action Network

Rex Wilmouth  
State Director  
Colorado PIRG

Cheryl Hystad  
Executive Director  
Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition

Don Rounds  
President  
The Consumer Alliance (MD)

Paul Schlaver  
Chair  
Massachusetts Consumers' Coalition

Dena Mottola  
Executive Director  
New Jersey PIRG

Brad Lamb  
Executive Director/General Counsel  
North Carolina Consumers Council, Inc.

Beth A. McConnell  
Director  
Pennsylvania PIRG

Megan Owens  
Consumer Advocate  
PIRGIM (MI)

Michael Shames  
Executive Director  
Utility Consumers' Action Network (CA)

Irene Leech  
President  
Virginia Citizens Consumer Council

George Barany  
Executive Director  
WECO Fund, Inc.

Jim Brown  
President  
Wisconsin Consumers League

Jennifer Giegerich  
State Director  
Wisconsin PIRG