

Honourable Jim Rondeau
Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mines
Room 333, Legislative Building
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

November 21, 2008

Dear Minister Rondeau:

The Board of Resource Conservation Manitoba (RCM) has reviewed the issues around greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) from private vehicle use and is offering the attached preliminary analysis, based on publicly available information sources.

From this review, it is clear that even aggressive vehicle standards such as those developed by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) are not sufficient, alone, to reduce emissions of GHGs from the light duty vehicle sector much less meet the transportation sector's share of the Kyoto target of 6% below 1990 levels by 2012. Accordingly, RCM is calling for a multi-pronged portfolio of measures that include:

- fuel- and emission-efficiency gains that match CARB standards or better and that include lower-cost alternatives achievable in the short run by downsizing
- greater use of cleaner fuels, primarily diesel and electricity
- an expanded program for scrapping older, less fuel-efficient vehicles
- a reduction in the use of private vehicles through positive and negative incentives and improvements in alternatives such as transit and active transportation
- a feebate program to encourage the purchase of more fuel-efficient vehicles
- a marketing program, involving auto dealers, promoting the sale of efficient vehicles sized for their dominant actual use rather than the most demanding possible use, with loaners, rentals, or car-shares available for occasional higher capacity vehicle needs.

We will also be providing this brief to the members of the Vehicle Standards Advisory Board, which includes a representative from RCM.

As a small community organization, RCM is not resourced to undertake detailed research at the scale that is required to provide further modelling and policy options for either the VSAB or your Department. Our preliminary analysis was prepared through volunteer effort. We strongly recommend that the necessary research be undertaken or commissioned by your Department to ensure that new Manitoba vehicle standards reflect best practices and are supported by programs, targets and measures adequate to achieve substantial reductions in GHGs. A milestone measure of success will be meeting the transportation sector's share of Manitoba's legislated commitment to lower GHG emissions by 6% from 1990 levels by 2012.

Thank you for considering this input as your government moves forward in this area.

Yours truly,

[signature in original]

Peter Miller, Chair
Policy Committee
on behalf of the RCM Board

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