

Calif. official asks EPA head to grant emissions waiver

Jan. 23 -- A California environmental official has sent a letter to Lisa Jackson, nominated to head the Obama administration's EPA, asking she reconsider granting California a waiver to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars.

California Air Resources Board Chairwoman Mary Nichols asked Jackson to reverse a decision by the Environmental Protection Agency under the Bush administration that denied California and 13 other states the right to impose their own greenhouse gas emissions standards on new cars sold in the state.

"We feel strongly that under its new leadership, EPA will recognize that the decision made by the former administrator to deny California the waiver to enforce our clean car law was flawed, factually and legally, in fundamental ways," Nichols said.

If the EPA grants the waiver, California and the other states would begin a program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles by 30 percent by 2016.

Nichols' letter to Jackson is available online at www.arb.ca.gov/newsrel/arbwaiverrequest.pdf.

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