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ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE

finding the ways that work

## **CALIFORNIA LEADS THE WORLD: PIONEERING SOLUTIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS**

California has long led the nation and the world in ground-breaking environmental solutions that provide economic benefits. Time and again, California's policy leadership has spurred other states, the nation, and other countries to take similar action. Today, California has the opportunity to lead again on the most pressing issue of our time: global warming.

If the Golden State were a country, it would be the 6<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world, and the 12<sup>th</sup> largest emitter of global warming pollution. While California alone cannot stop global warming, California's leadership and the cumulative effect of the state's actions can have a significant impact and can protect the state from global warming's impacts. And by leading this effort, California can bring jobs and economic benefits to the state by gaining a competitive advantage in the fast-growing clean energy market.

### ***California's Clean Cars Law Now Applies to One-Third of the North American Market***

When California takes action, the impact is felt around the country. In 2002, California was the first state to limit global warming pollution from cars. The standards will reduce emissions from new vehicles by approximately 30% by 2016, while also saving California consumers more than \$4 billion by 2020. Today, ten other states and Canada have followed California's lead. So California's standards now apply to more than one-third of the North American car market. Together, these programs will reduce global warming emissions in 2020 by more than 64 million tons of carbon dioxide per year, an amount greater than the national emissions of more than 100 countries.

### ***California's Pioneering Efficiency Standards Adopted by U.S. and Other Countries***

California was the first state in the nation to adopt efficiency standards for appliances in 1977. Florida, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, and other states followed suit, leading to national standards in 1987. Today, these standards provide enormous energy savings and lower energy bills for the entire country. For example, the national refrigerator standards, which trace their origin to California, have saved more than 130,000 MW of electricity supply compared to projections, equivalent to more than 250 power plants. In 2004, California adopted the latest upgrade to its efficiency standards for household appliances; the same standards were adopted by the federal government in 2005.

California also led the nation in adopting efficiency standards for new buildings in 1978. These standards, the strongest in the United States, have been adopted by countries around the world, saving energy far beyond California's borders. For example, Russia's new construction building code is reducing the country's energy use by more than 40 percent. And China adopted lighting efficiency requirements based directly on California's standards, which significantly magnifies the impact of the state's standards, reducing global warming pollution by approximately 110 million tons of carbon dioxide per year after ten years.

### ***Californians Support Tough Action to Combat Global Warming***

A bipartisan majority of Californians believe that global warming is a real concern, according to a recent survey by the Public Policy Institute of California. Three in four Californians agree that global warming will have serious effects on the state's economy and quality of life. And a majority of Californians support state policy to combat global warming.

### ***California Should Continue its Leadership to Address Global Warming***

Other states have pledged to curb their global warming emissions, but if California acts now we will be the first to take decisive action, once again setting a model for the nation to follow. The state can build on its admirable record of leadership on clean cars, energy efficiency, renewable energy and other policies that provide environmental and economic benefits. By working together, California's leaders will continue the state's world-class leadership in tackling the most serious environmental problems, and lead the fight to stop global warming.