

Ottawa Sets Low Bar on Vehicle Efficiency Regulations Atlantic provinces must lead where feds lag: Ecology Action Centre

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In Montreal today, Transport Minister Lawrence Cannon announced plans for new vehicle efficiency regulations. The Minister indicated that the Canadian regulation would at minimum meet the standard set by the Bush administration; requiring car makers to meet an average fuel economy of 35mpg by 2020 with no immediate targets.

Several Canadian Provinces and 20 U.S. states have supported the California Vehicle Emission Regulation. According to Scott Gillard, Transportation Coordinator with Ecology Action Centre the California regulation should be the minimum benchmark for a "made-in-Canada" regulation. Gillard said the California regulations are more stringent, will effect results much sooner and will ultimately achieve more than the Bush administration's regulation.

"If it's not at least as good as the California regulation, then it's inadequate," said Gillard.

Gillard is calling on all Atlantic Premieres to join Quebec in adoption and implementation of the California regulations.

"There's clearly a lack of leadership at the federal level, the U.S. regulations are a laggard on the world stage," says Gillard, "all of the Atlantic Premieres have said they would adopt the California standard, Nova Scotia's Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act already includes it."

Gillard is encouraging the government of Nova Scotia to continue to demonstrate leadership in the region by implementing the California regulation.

A report released by [Climateforchange.ca](http://www.climateforchange.ca) in November of 2007 indicates that the federal government will cost Canadians billions of dollars in fuel expenses by adopting the weak U.S. regulation.

(http://www.climateforchange.ca/files/climateforchange.ca/Public_Files53/BeckerReport.pdf)