

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

**BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND THE
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION**

ON

**SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH THAT WILL OCCUR IF PROPOSED FUEL
EFFICIENCY STANDARDS ARE MET**

ON JANUARY 17, 2012

**JONATHAN TOBIAS
OWNER
MICHIGAN GREEN CABS**

3-Minute Version

Good afternoon. My name is Jonathan Tobias, and I am the owner of Michigan Green Cabs in Wixom, Michigan. Since 2008, my 50-employee green cab company has been operating with a fully hybrid fleet. In my industry, drivers pay the price of fuel for their cabs. One of the reasons my business has been so successful is because I've been able to offer hybrid cabs getting 51 miles per gallon, which significantly lowers the gas expenses drivers pay out of pocket. They would rather drive for me than for someone who would have them paying the fuel prices it takes to drive a Crown Victoria.

I support stronger fuel efficiency standards because they will produce long-term economic benefits for the economy, and because I know they are technologically within reach. I am certain that a 54.5 mpg standard is absolutely feasible. The sooner fuel efficiency standards are strengthened, the sooner I'll have greater spending power to expand my business and hire more employees. My employees will have greater spending power, too—they'll be better situated to support their families and the economy.

Right now, bolstering fuel efficiency standards is a policy lawmakers should enact immediately for the sake of small businesses and our floundering economy. Higher fuel economy standards can help entrepreneurs like me save money. We can then use that money to grow our businesses and create jobs for the 14 million unemployed Americans.

I recently saw a survey from Small Business Majority that found 81% of Michigan small business owners believe it is important for the U.S. to take action now to increase fuel efficiency in cars and light trucks. Forty-three percent of Michigan owners said it was *very* important to raise these standards.

Small Business Majority's poll also revealed just how strong small business owners would like to see fuel standards become over the next few years: 72% of Michigan small business owners support raising requirements to 60 mpg by 2025—an even higher standard than the 54.5 mpg rule President Obama proposed in November. With 58% of Michigan's entrepreneurs saying the federal government should do more to make American car companies innovate, it's essential these standards are met now.

Small business owners have a strong economic reason to favor bold fuel standards. Small Business Majority's poll found that more than half of Michigan entrepreneurs see the rising costs of doing business as their primary business concern—and that includes the cost of fuel. Improved fuel economy standards have the power to cut long-term business costs.

What's more, 82% of Michigan owners agree improving innovation and energy efficiency are good ways to increase prosperity for small businesses. This helps explain why so many small business owners like myself believe stronger fuel economy standards have the potential to boost our bottom lines.

Put simply, higher fuel standards would help me expand my business and better my employees' quality of life. If I can give them 54.5 mpg cars, I'll be able to hire and keep better drivers because they'll earn more money. Most importantly, they'll be achieving a better standard of living for their families, while helping grow the economy, which I think is what we're all trying to do here. Thank you.