

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

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

ON

**SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH IN RELATION TO PROPOSED FUEL
EFFICIENCY STANDARDS**

ON JANUARY 19, 2012

**KEN WEINSTEIN
OWNER
TROLLEY CAR DINER**

3-Minute Version

Good afternoon. My name is Ken Weinstein. I am the owner of Trolley Car Diner in Philadelphia. For 11 years, I've run my business according to innovative, efficient standards that help me save money on energy costs. I then invest that extra money in my business, which helps grow the economy. As a small business owner who knows strong energy standards are good for my bottom line, I fully support raising the fuel efficiency requirements automakers must meet.

For my business, improved fuel standards would help lower food costs, since our suppliers would pay less to transport it. Our revenue also fluctuates with our customers' fuel costs. Legislation that would ultimately reduce gas prices for consumers could bring more customers to us and other businesses in the area. The sooner these standards are strengthened, the sooner I'll have greater spending power to expand my business, hire more employees and support 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 87% of small business owners nationally—nearly nine in 10—believe it's important for the

United States to take action now to increase fuel efficiency in cars and light trucks. A 59% majority described this as *very* important.

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: four in five respondents said they would support raising requirements to 60 miles per gallon by 2025—an even higher standard than the 54.5 mpg rule President Obama proposed in November. With 71% of the nation's entrepreneurs saying American car companies do not innovate enough and 73% agreeing the federal government should do more to make them do so, it's essential these standards are met now.

Small business owners have a strong economic reason to favor bold fuel standards. Of the employers Small Business Majority polled, they cited the rising cost of doing business as what burdens them most—including fuel costs. Improved fuel economy standards have the power to cut long-term business costs.

What's more, 87% of owners agree that improving innovation and energy efficiency are good ways to increase prosperity for small firms. 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 would increase my employees' spending power. Consumers across the country would also save money on the cost of fuel, better positioning them to visit businesses everywhere. With the help of bold fuel efficiency standards like the ones proposed, we can all do our part in growing the economy. Thank you.