

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 26, 2012

**JOHN RUUD
CO-OWNER
BM BUILDERS**

3-Minute Version

Good afternoon. My name is John Ruud. I own BM Builders, a full-service construction firm in Los Angeles, CA. As a small business owner who is LEED certified in building and construction, I know firsthand about the benefits of improving fuel economy standards at state and national levels.

Strengthening fuel efficiency standards for cars and light trucks would cut operation costs for my business. I'm aware that purchasing more fuel-efficient vehicles has an upfront cost. However, the reduction we'd see in our long-term operation costs, because of these vehicles, would far outweigh the cost of purchasing them. We plan to eventually provide trucks for all our employees, and when that time comes, we will be better positioned to boost our bottom line and expand the business if improved fuel standards have been secured.

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 80% of California small business owners believe it is important for the U.S. to take action now to increase fuel efficiency in cars and light trucks. Fifty-six percent of California 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: Four in five California small business owners said they would support raising requirements to 60 mpg by 2025—an even higher standard than the 54.5 mpg rule President Obama proposed in November. With 69% of California's entrepreneurs saying American car companies do not innovate enough and 79% agreeing the federal government should do more to make them do so, it's essential for California to continue leading the way in making sure these standards are met.

Small business owners have a strong economic reason to favor bold fuel standards. Small Business Majority's poll found that California entrepreneurs see the rising costs of doing business as one of their primary business concerns—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 California 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.

All in all, higher fuel standards would help BM Builders save significant sums of money on operation costs and potentially expand. Better standards would broaden the array of fuel-efficient vehicles available to our business, increasing choice and ultimately decreasing

cost. The proposed fuel economy standards are a win-win for Californians and Americans at large. Thank you.