



July 20, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Mr. President:

We, the undersigned organizations, represent the diverse leaders in electric drive transportation. Our members, spanning multiple industry sectors, greatly appreciate the Administration's recognition of the importance of electric drive in establishing a secure, sustainable and successful energy future. Displacing oil with electricity will result in a cleaner environment, a more secure nation and a stronger, more competitive economy.

The Administration's goal of one million plug-in electric drive vehicles by 2015 and accompanying investments and policies have been a powerful impetus for growth. We believe that the critical, immediate next step for the Administration is to provide the necessary coordination of the growing federal, regional and private efforts.

Specifically, we recommend that the Administration establish a National Electric Fuel Task Force, to provide a necessary forum for public and private sector information exchange, and to collaboratively address challenges to large scale deployment of plug-in electric drive vehicles and the necessary infrastructure. In addition, the Task Force would take the lead in coordinating the development of consumer awareness and education efforts meant to promote the acceptance and adoption of electric transportation as a viable transportation option. The Task Force should be led by the Department of Energy and include federal and state regulators and standard setting organizations; utilities; environmental groups; vehicle, fueling and grid stakeholders; consumers groups; and others implementing vehicle and infrastructure deployment strategies.

Additionally, we recommend that the Administration establish an Interagency Electric Drive Working Group that will work closely with the National Electric Fuel Task Force to align and coordinate federal programs and policies regarding electric drive. Multiple federal agencies are currently developing regulations and standards that will influence the success of deployment efforts for electric drive vehicles. Establishing a collaborative process to align federal programs with the national goals of the Task Force will provide greater coordination of federal expenditures related to electric drive technologies and of regulatory efforts across the federal government. We further recommend that the Administration designate a lead official at the Department of Energy with the responsibility to direct the activities of the interagency working group.

Undertaken together, these initiatives will provide the next stage of federal leadership, ensure the best use of resources and promote the coordination of federal, state and local efforts to move transportation away from oil and toward electricity. We thank you for your ongoing commitment and support and we stand ready to work with you to achieve our shared vision for electric drive.

Sincerely,



Brian P. Wynne, President
Electric Drive Transportation Association



Dave McCurdy, President and CEO
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers



Michael J. Stanton, President and CEO
Association of International Automobile Manufacturers



Tom Kuhn, President
Edison Electric Institute

Cc:

The Honorable Steven Chu
The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson
The Honorable Ray LaHood
The Honorable Gary Locke
Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change Carol Browner