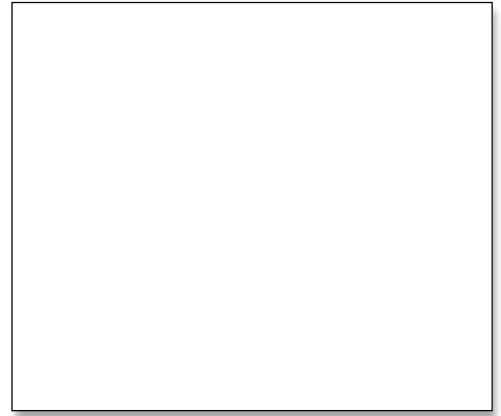


Attn: Geoff Hoon MP
Transport Secretary
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA



Dear Minister,

As you know, tackling climate change is becoming more urgent than ever. In the UK, road transport makes a major contribution to increasing greenhouse gas emissions. We find ourselves at a crunch point when we need car manufacturers to fully embrace the challenge of redesigning vehicles to have minimal impact on the environment.

I am asking for your help by supporting the move for strong and meaningful CO2 emissions targets for new cars of 120g CO2/km by 2012, and 80g CO2/km by 2020. Repeatedly ACEA, SMMT and the car companies have argued for a binding target for 2020. This will provide the vital and appropriate assuredness they need to invest and change.

In their negotiations in the European Council, UK ministers now have a crucial role to play in encouraging innovation and the discovery of new solutions. Tighter emissions targets will not only reduce fuel costs for consumers; they will also motivate European manufacturers to lead the change in worldwide technology, creating more jobs in the long run.

It's not rocket science. There are many cars already emitting 120g CO2/km and less, so the technology is already available. Suppliers have repeatedly insisted that the solutions are on the shelf, waiting to be used.

What is lacking is the leadership needed to push in the right direction. Please help oppose moves for a watered-down target and any opt-outs or phase-ins. We can't afford to postpone measures any longer. As Nick Stern advised, it will be far more costly if we don't act now. Today is the time for real backbone.

I urge you and your office not to compromise with the demands of the German car makers and the French presidency in order to protect the national interests of Land Rover and Jaguar. Land Rover represents old technology, and if they want to survive, then they need to change and innovate like everyone else.

I look forward to hearing from you on this important subject.

Sincerely,

