



## Suwannee-St. Johns Group

December 9, 2008

Madame Mayor and Commissioners,

This letter and attachments are in response to the request that I supply the Clerk of the Commission with back-up for an agenda item at a future meeting which I made at the end of the December 4, 2008 Gainesville Commission meeting. I appreciate the Commission's willingness to consider this request and hope that after reviewing the attached material you will recognize the importance to our community of improved air quality attainable through these Clean Car Standards. The Florida Clean Car Rule matches the requirements of the California Clean Car Rule (aka Pavley Standards) since this is the only option for a state desiring implement emissions standards that are more stringent than federal law. Greenhouse gas emissions are included in these standards as well as other pollutants, among them ozone.

The attached column written by my Sierra Club colleague Rosalie Schaffer, *Out of the O-Zone*, explains the particular relevance of recent strengthening of the air quality index for ozone. The most recent air quality data for Alachua County places us at the new standard of 75 parts per billion (ppb), while this does not classify the County as being in non-attainment we are on the brink of this designation. Besides potential regulatory and financial impacts of potential designation as being in non-attainment, there is a significant community health benefit to be realized by implementation of the Florida Clean Car Rule through reduction in ground level ozone. I recommend also reading *Smog-Who Does It Hurt* for additional information on the respiratory impacts of exposure of ground level ozone on your constituents.

All of the attachments include the url to visit the website they were copied from; you may also wish to visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/energy/cleancars/>. The Clean Car Rule could lead to a reduction in gasoline use in Florida of as much as 1.6 billion gallons annually in 2020. In addition to saving energy, it will also help in the form of savings at the gas pump due to decreased demand. In fact though cleaner cars will have an up front cost the gas savings alone more than offset this cost while providing numerous health and environmental benefits. For all these reasons I hope the Commission will move to include, or add, the Florida Clean Car Rule to Gainesville's 2009 Legislative agenda. Thank you for your attention to this request. Sincerely,

Rob Brinkman, Energy Issue Chair for the Sierra Club Florida