



**For Immediate Release:**  
January 2, 2008

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## **N.J. Joins Suit Against EPA Seeking Right to Combat Global Warming**

*14 Other States File Against EPA over Denial of California Emissions Standards*

**TRENTON** -- Attorney General Anne Milgram announced today that New Jersey is joining a federal lawsuit brought by California against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) seeking to uphold the right of states to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles. New Jersey is one of 15-states joining the California lawsuit.

The federal Clean Air Act grants California -- exclusively among all states -- the power to enact its own air pollution standards for vehicles. The Clean Air Act also allows other states to adopt California's standards. But California's standards and those of the other states can only take effect if the EPA grants a waiver exempting California from federal regulation.

"New Jersey has made a strong commitment to tackling the problem of global warming, but a similar commitment by the federal government is critical, and a good place to start would be approval of the California waiver request," said Attorney General Milgram. "The Supreme Court has acknowledged that greenhouse gases are 'air pollutants' under the Clean Air Act, and that the harms associated with global warming are serious and well recognized. We need the waiver enabling California's proposed greenhouse gas emission standards for new motor vehicles, which are vital to the health and well being of New Jersey residents."

On December 19, 2007, the EPA denied California's request for a waiver, preventing California and all other states from implementing greenhouse gas emissions standards for automobiles.

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California's standards, adopted in August 2005, would reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from cars by 30 percent by 2016. New Jersey adopted California's standards in November 2005. In total, at least 17 other states have now either adopted or plan to adopt the California standards.

The California lawsuit, which seeks to reverse the EPA denial, was filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. In addition to New Jersey, the states or state agencies intervening in the suit are: Massachusetts, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington.

In 2007, Attorney General Milgram testified at an EPA hearing in Washington, D.C. on the California waiver issue. At that hearing, Milgram noted that New Jersey has 130 miles of highly-populated coastline, and is "highly vulnerable" to the sea-level rise predicted due to global warming. Milgram explained at the EPA session that New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine has signed an Executive Order setting a goal of cutting greenhouse gas emission levels by 20 percent by 2020, and calls for a reduction from 2006 levels of 80 percent by the year 2050.

Deputy Attorney Generals Jung Kim and Lisa Morelli are handling New Jersey's intervention in the California lawsuit on behalf of the State.

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