



For Immediate Release

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June 19, 2007

**LCLAA Applauds Senators Pryor, Levin, Bond and Voinovich
for Bipartisan Alternative to Improve Fuel Economy**

*Energy Bill Amendment Sets Forth Aggressive but Achievable Fuel Economy Standards,
Protects American Jobs and the Environment*

Washington, DC - The Labor Council on Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) today expressed its support for the Pryor-Bond-Levin-Voinovich amendment to the energy bill currently being debated by the Senate. The amendment, expected for a vote as early as Wednesday, proposes realistic increased Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards, significant clean technology requirements for an increasing percentage of vehicles, expanded availability of clean fuels for consumers and an enhanced federal program that will strongly promote the development of advanced technologies.

"This amendment stands to make businesses more profitable, create better jobs and accelerate economic innovation and growth," said Dr. Gabriela Lemus, Executive Director of LCLAA. "Rather than make a shortsighted attempt at fuel efficiency reform that will burden Latino workers and their families, this amendment looks toward alternative fuels that could drive the rest of America into a renewable, environmentally harmonious future."

The amendment supports Latino trade unionists by proposing achievable mandates in contrast to more radical CAFE proposals that ignore the unintended and punitive consequences on the domestic auto industry and its workers. The United Auto Workers (UAW) has analyzed price increases and demonstrated it would cost the jobs of 17,000 autoworkers and 50,000 auto-parts workers. Nearly 100,000 Latinos are employed within the core of the U.S. auto manufacturing industry, an industry responsible for 13.3 million jobs nationwide. Moreover, for every worker directly employed by an automaker, more than 10 spin-off jobs are created.

LCLAA supports the amendment as a viable solution that promotes growth in the job sector, energy diversity and advanced technologies. U.S. energy and environmental policy can be an engine of economic growth and opportunity by advancing the development and implementation of alternative automotive technologies and biofuels, while addressing the competitive disparities against U.S. automakers and workers.

By developing a larger policy framework that creates more and better jobs, including those in the emerging "green collar" sector, the amendment encourages automakers to continue the development of alternative fuel enabling technologies. The "green collar" sector is comprised of manufacturing jobs with environmental and alternative energy implications such as the production of cars that run on electricity, hydrogen and alternative fuel sources like cellulosic ethanol.

The Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, (LCLAA), is America's premiere national organization dedicated to build social, economic and political power for Hispanic workers, their families and their communities. Founded in 1973, LCLAA advocates for the interests of over 1.7 million Latino trade unionists throughout the country and Puerto Rico. LCLAA is a constituency group representing Latino workers from both the AFL-CIO and Change to Win Federation.

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