Testimony Comment, Jodeci Weems

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Hello, my name is Jodeci Weems I am a California Resident and an intern with the Laudato Si advocates program where we strive to reach out and promote environmental Justice. As someone concerned about the environment and the protection over our planet, there’s a lot to agree with in the Department of Transportation’s proposition for fuel economy standards for passenger cars and light trucks. This is a positive step forward to cleaner transportation and an act of justice and equity for communities that often suffer because of greenhouse emissions.

Addressing the fuel economy and efficiency standards is bringing society closer to reducing the disproportionate burden of air pollution affecting the lives of everyone in America, and especially those within marginalized communities, as lower income neighborhoods are often the ones facing the consequences of air pollution caused by fossil fueled vehicles. The new standards set by the DOT can help to mitigate health disparities and improve the air and quality of livelihood of those being greatly affected by pollution.

Transitioning to cleaner methods of transportation can bring about new opportunities within our economy. Investing in electrical and fuel-efficient vehicles, public transportation that many people depend on, and cleaner energy infrastructure can prompt economic growth and provide new jobs.

These standards of fuel efficiency are the goal of Laudato Si as well as myself to mitigate the impacts of climate change and protect our planet. There are many people and communities around the world suffering the effects of climate change, and these standards can help by leading way to a commitment of change and bring about action.

Transitioning towards cleaner transportation takes a lot of thought and must be inclusive as the issue of climate change affects everyone, so programs that help everyone especially those without a voice, in accessing cleaner and more affordable options of transportation are so vital of this effort put forward. And the DOT’s proposition for fuel economy and efficiency standards aligns with these principles of equity and justice. We can improve the health of our planet, address climate injustice, and create a more sustainable future by embracing cleaner transportation.