April 4, 2005

Windsor

Citizens Environment Alliance concerned about Federal plan on auto emissions

Federal Cabinet Ministers John Efford (Minister of Natural Resources) and Stéphane Dion (Minister of Environment) are coming to Windsor tomorrow to tout their 'new' deal on auto emissions and CEA researcher Derek Coronado will be in attendance.

The CEA is concerned that the Federal government is not using regulatory requirements to control automobile emissions. "Unless they develop a credible and transparent method to reduce automobile emissions and make commitments to measure and publish those reductions, this may be an empty agreement."

Coronado noted that the government has the power to regulate automobile emissions under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, but chose not to exercise that option. "We would have preferred strict regulations under CEPA to voluntary commitments," he said.

The CEA and other environmental groups will be watching for the following three criteria for an effective voluntary agreement:

1. contains an automatic trigger for regulations to kick in if interim targets are missed;
2. lays out a rigorous, credible methodology for quantifying emission reductions; and
3. requires public reporting and third-party verification of progress towards targets.

The ministers will be joined by Marcus Breitschwerdt [Chair of the Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada (AIAMC)] and Joseph Hinrichs [Chair of the Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers Association (CVMA)].

The announcement will take place at University of Windsor Centre for Automotive Research and Education, 754 California Avenue (south of Wyandotte Street West) at 9:30 am on Tuesday, April 5, 2005

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