

Dear Rep Boehlert; (copy fax'd to your Utica Office 315-798-4099) Re: Your Comments in 2/19/06 SYR Opinions

What is the average sex in America? Since that is supposed to be the middle of the total distribution, one would think it would represent the highest number of individual units in a PARETO chart. But how many of your constituents are actually there?

The CAFE standard makes just as much sense, both as an objective and as a meaning, since the government has many different ways of defining what is included in the calculation, few of which actually represent real-world usage. And that number is totally meaningless once the vehicles so represented are actually on the roads of America. An RV has a totally different purpose than a Porsche. But A Porsche and a Hummer, though having different capabilities for certain, may have little difference in actual tasks put before them.

I see little to be gained by any governmental body using its ability to redistribute wealth as a means to define democracy, especially in light of the rationale we state as basis for our continued efforts in the Middle East. Why do we insist they will have freedom to choose, then insist that fascist policies like CAFE are appropriate for us here?

Instead of trying to redefine the wheel and dream up another level of governmental consumption without any basis in reality, why not recognize that a perfectly viable model exists in most of the rest of the world, which adequately addresses the issues and the objectives simultaneously? We ALL purchase oil from the global pot, whoever is pumping it, so we are all subject to the market forces that entails. But many governments have placed significant taxes on transport fuels. Some of the highest are in Germany. Yet in Germany they ALSO have both the safest, AND the FASTEST, highways in the world.

One fundamental reason that has caused few economic hardships has been the long-term strategy of gradual indexing of the taxes so the time to develop the efficiency technologies was possible, even for mundane machines like the VW, to say little of the BMW, Porsche & M-B cars which actually develop many of those technologies where margins allow for the earlier costs.

What we DO NOT need is a strategy which changes with the whims of politics and is easily defeated, like CAFE, but instead a fixed long-term strategy which can help address the deficit and entitlements problems as well. It is little secret that most Democrats view the personal automobile as the root of all evil, nor that most Republicans think the market is capable of addressing EVERY problem. I do not buy either approach absolutely. But even a high-school dropout who knows that gas prices will increase by a nickel each year for the next 50 years will decide to select a more efficient vehicle by the fifth year, by which time the auto industry can have implemented the technologies for the new car buyers which will rationally justify their higher price tags. And we all benefit in the long run. Meanwhile, those who actually insist they will drive Stupid Urban Vehemouths will be free to do so, albeit at a cost which represents their true impact on society. I am often asked how I can afford a 34 ft Class A Motorhome to drive to my next client site. Since I tow a small car behind it, the answer is simple math, based on the daily cost of the alternatives, and the duration of my stay. It might surprise you to find that a five day stay can easily offset the cost of travel to and from a gig 500 miles away, by reducing housing costs. But at least the decision is MINE to make, not the governments'.

I happen to own a Porsche 911, capable of going 135 mph at less consumption than a Hummer at 65. Assuming they are both used for the same transport purpose, which is statistically the case, I am deprived from buying TIME by the onerous speed enforcement on the very roads capable of such sustained transport safely, thanks to the efforts of people like you. Which might well explain why people buy SUV's instead of hatchbacks. It is the law of unintended consequences. Try thinking of THAT when you insist on CAFE. Please.

Respectfully,



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