



New fuel standards will ultimately reach 54.5 mpg by 2025.

## Obama to unveil new fuel standards

By **DARREN SAMUELSON** | 07/27/11 03:29 PM EDT

President Barack Obama on Friday will roll out new fuel economy standards that are expected to go down as one of his biggest environmental accomplishments during his term.

Obama appears to have won broad support from the auto industry for its plan to ramp up the fuel economy limits for cars and light trucks over the next 14 years, ultimately reaching 54.5 mpg by 2025. He is set to unveil the CAFE limits at an event at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C., White House spokesman Jay Carney said Wednesday.

"This program, which builds on the historic agreement achieved by this administration for model years 2012-2016, will result in significant cost savings for consumers at the pump, dramatically

reduce oil consumption, cut pollution and create jobs," Carney said at the start of Wednesday's press briefing.

The industry support appears to be contingent on several flexible compliance approaches built into the agreement and limiting California's ability to set its own emission standards, a right it has under the Clean Air Act.

"Automakers really wanted to see a single national program, and we believe that the White House understands how much of an economic disruption would occur from multiple standards at the state and federal levels," said Gloria Bergquist, a spokeswoman at the Alliance for Automobile Manufacturers. "So, we are moving one step closer to a single national program for greenhouse gases and fuel economy for the next 14 years."

General Motors, Chrysler, Ford, Honda, Hyundai and Nissan are reportedly behind the White House plan, even though none have spoken up publicly about the plan, according to several sources tracking the talks.

Environmentalists said they were not ready to fully endorse the agreement as they study the fine print in the concessions that the Obama administration made for industry.

"Based on what we know now, the president's proposal would be a significant acceleration in the fight against global warming and oil addiction but it was weakened by auto industry lobbying," said Dan Becker, director of Safe Climate Campaign.

"There's some things we find encouraging and some things we find troubling," added Roland Hwang, transportation program director at the Natural Resources Defense Council. "If there's an agreement, we think at this point it's up to the auto industry, we're calling upon the auto industry, not to exploit loopholes that could undermine the consumer and pollution benefits."