

# Collector Car Hobby Scores Wins In Washington

Summer of '92 has been filled with good news for members of the Coalition for Vehicle Choice, a nationwide group of collector car hobbyists and automotive industries which includes the Mustang Club of America.

Backed by vocal, self-proclaimed "environmental" groups, California Democrat Rep. Henry Waxman tried to attach his "Global Climate Protection Act" to pending energy legislation. The Waxman bill would have imposed drastic limits on U.S. emissions of carbon dioxide from cars and other sources. (CO<sub>2</sub> is not a pollutant. It is the non-toxic by-product of petroleum combustion and is found extensively in nature as well).

The harsh limits in the Waxman bill would have led to fuel economy standards as high as 40-45 miles per gallon and restricted other types of economic activity as well. Fortunately, through the efforts of the Coalition for Vehicle Choice and other similar groups, the bill was ultimately dropped. But CVC warns that the issue will almost certainly be back before Congress next year.

On another front, vintage car hobbyists won another round.

Last April, in the waning days of the Maryland legislative session, the state enacted a new auto tax/rebate program, based on fuel economy. Owners of cars with lower fuel economy (under 21 mpg in 1993) would pay a surcharge on registration, while those in higher ratings (over 35 mpg) would receive rebates. This "fee-bate" system was enacted over the objections of car dealers, safety advocates and others who depend on larger vehicles.

In early June, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) ruled that the Maryland tax is preempted by the Federal CAFE law and thus can't be enforced. The state's attorney general reluctantly conceded the legal point, but said he would work to find some way to avoid or change the Federal restrictions.

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In the midst of all this Federal activity relating to fuel economy, you might find this news interesting:

The *San Francisco Chronicle* recently reported that "top officials at the Environmental Protection Agency ride around Washington in gas-guzzling luxury sedans, in violation of federal regulations and national energy conversation standards."

That was the conclusion of the Office of the Inspector General.



**Jack Yeager  
Publisher**

According to the *Chronicle*, "The review by the EPA's auditing arm last March ... found sloppy management of the agency's motor fleet for top brass as well as disregard of national environmental objectives at EPA headquarters."

The newspaper went on to note that the EPA "maintained a dozen large sedans in

its executive fleet, which averaged only 6.3 miles to the gallon."

The federally mandated fuel economy standard is an average of 27.5 miles per gallon!

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Thanks to Shirley Smith, MCA #25340, for her recent note informing us of the formation of the Nevada Car Owners Association, Inc.

Shirley writes, "Could you please add us as another organization formed to help fight to protect and preserve the rights of classic car collectors?"

For information contact Nevada Car Owners Association, Southern Region, 2011 S. Highway Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89102, (702) 388-0008 or fax (702) 452-8188.

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