

Fuel Efficiency Standards Tax Cut

What a great day that I have! Just been elected to public office as a representative of the Miami Dade County district. My inspiration came from Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. She was born on July 15, 1952, in Havana, Cuba. When she was 8 years old, she and her family fled Cuba and settled in Miami. Ileana became the first Republican Cuban-American woman elected to the Florida House in 1983 and the Florida Senate in 1987. She also was the first Hispanic woman to serve in Congress upon her election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1989.

My background is similar to Ileana where I had to flee Puerto Rico and settled in Miami when I was 2 years old. As part of the public office, I will be working with Ileana on George Bush's tax cuts for fuel efficiency standards on autos. This means that the tax cut would raise automotive fuel economy standards for the first time in more than three decades, requiring a corporate average of 35 miles per gallon by 2020. It boosts federal support for alternative fuel research and energy conservation efforts.

We need higher fuel standards, fuel efficiency is a measure of how far a vehicle can travel per unit of fuel. In the United States, this is expressed as "miles per gallon" (mpg). Fuel efficient vehicles require less gas to go a given distance. When we burn less gas, we use less oil. When we use less oil, we cut global warming emissions and produce less pollution. Because we are using less fuel, we are spending less on gas. Improving the fuel efficiency of U.S. vehicles is the biggest single step we can take to cut America's oil consumption in half. In fact, doubling the fuel efficiency of new cars, trucks, and commercial vehicles would, by 2035, will save over 5 million barrels of oil per day.