

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Groups across California respond to Trump administration Attack on state pollution standards

*Health, equity, environmental and business groups offer sweeping
Condemnation of move to revoke states' right to follow clean vehicle standards*

Sacramento, Calif. – In response to the Trump administration’s unprecedented attack on California’s authority under the Clean Air Act to limit vehicle tailpipe pollution, state-based organizations delivered sweeping condemnations of the attempt to limit California’s ability to address air quality issues.

Official statements are listed alphabetically from CALSTART, Coalition for Clean Air, Coltura, E2, Environment California, Greenlining Institute, NRDC, Plug In America, and Sierra Club California.

For more information or interviews contact Sage Welch.

CALSTART

John Boesel, president and CEO

“This is a huge setback for the industry, especially suppliers that create two thirds of all US auto related jobs. Automotive suppliers are making billion dollars bets in high efficiency vehicle technology. Today’s announcement is likely to provoke a long battle in the courts and create a tremendous amount of uncertainty. Meanwhile, suppliers in other countries will be racing ahead to help the rest of the world meet their obligations under the global climate accord.

“Our surveys show that suppliers see the current, strong fuel economy standards as good for jobs and good for investment. If there is one thing these companies need to thrive, it’s consistent, longer targets.

“Today’s announcement throws the U.S. auto tech industry into neutral or possibly into reverse. Meanwhile, companies in Europe and Asia have their feet on the accelerator and are advancing rapidly. If we want to create jobs and be real global competitors, we need to be moving ahead and working toward the current standards - not filing legal briefs and wasting our time in the courts.”

Coalition for Clean Air (CCA)

Chris Chavez, deputy policy director

“Today, the Trump Administration unleashed its most serious attack yet on California’s air. The Coalition for Clean Air opposes both rolling back the fuel efficiency standards as well as

revoking California's authority to regulate auto emissions, as allowed under the almost 50-year old Clean Air Act.

"We reject the Administration's argument that rolling back fuel efficiency standards promotes safety and reduces costs. These standards have saved lives and reduced fuel expenses for all Americans. Freezing the fuel efficiency standards will waste billions of dollars, make America less competitive and degrade our air.

"Revoking California's authority to regulate auto emissions is unprecedented and likely illegal. The bottom line is this action is designed to reward big oil and show California who's boss. This effort is being led by bureaucrats and ideologues in the EPA and the Department of Transportation who have an ax to grind with California."

Coltura

Janelle London, co-executive director

"Gas and diesel vehicle emissions are the single biggest source of [air pollution](#) and [carbon dioxide emissions](#) in California. These emissions are costing the state [\\$15 billion a year](#) in health and climate impacts. California must move ahead towards clean air and a healthy climate, despite federal efforts to move us backwards."

E2

Andy Wunder, western states advocate

"This misguided move will hurt California consumers at the pump. It will put at risk thousands of California jobs designing and building cleaner cars and the parts that go in them. And it casts an unwelcome cloud over American auto innovation and competitiveness in California and all across the country,

"Fortunately, California and other states are steadfast in standing up to the Trump administration. They're doing so because they realize better fuel efficiency and lower emissions is not just good for our environment but also good for our economy."

Environment California

Dan Jacobson, legislative director

"We can go further in our cars on a gallon of gasoline and a watt of electricity -why should we go backwards and spend more to not get as far? Trump's plan makes no sense."

GREENLINING INSTITUTE

Joel Espino, environmental equity legal counsel

"The Trump administration's weakening of the clean car standards represents a direct attack on the lungs and hearts of poor people of color, Time and again, low-income communities of color are hit hardest by vehicle smog because discriminatory land use and transportation policies

saddled those communities with clogged highways and dirty ports. Today's announcement is another tally on this administration's continuous war on the most vulnerable among us, as well as on the climate and environment that affect everyone.

NRDC

Irene Gutierre, clean energy attorney

Simon Mui, senior scientist

“California needs its waiver to protect its environment and the health of state residents. This protection is urgently needed, as the state has some of the worst air quality in the nation, and is hurting from devastating wildfires and other effects of climate change. EPA has no basis to withdraw the waiver, and we will fight this every step of the way.”

Plug In America

Joel Levin, Plug In America Executive Director

“The Trump Administration is tossing away states’ rights with this unprecedented proposal, telling Americans to drive dirtier vehicles that are more expensive to fuel.

California has historically had some of the worst air pollution in the country. The authority granted to California to set strong standards for itself and the twelve other states plus D.C. that follow its rules has led to significantly reduced air pollution. Revoking this authority doesn’t help anyone, it just hurts the American people. We will see them in court.”

Katherine Stainken, Policy Director

“Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler is proposing to gut the Clean Air Act, which gives states legal authority for stricter standards—an authority states have had for more than 50 years. They are using debunked claims about vehicle safety to justify themselves. Enough is enough. Plug In America will be joining with other public with other public interest and business groups in litigation to defend electric vehicles against this attack.”

Sierra Club California

Kathryn Phillips, California director

"The current standards are grounded in science. Today, the Trump Administration has sided with its polluter cronies to reverse common-sense clean car standards.

Clean air for all is a fundamental priority for California and its air pollution regulators, Attorney General, Governor and legislative leaders. They’re prepared to fight the madness on behalf of all of us who breathe. That’s the silver lining of the continuing cloud of bad news about public health and environmental protection floating out of the White House.”

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