

Safer Affordable Fuel Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles Proposed Rule Fact Sheet

On August 24, 2018, the Trump Administration proposed to roll back clean car standards, a move that will increase vehicle emissions of powerful greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change and harmful air pollutants that endanger people's health. The Safer Affordable Fuel Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule, which was proposed by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA, will result in higher gas prices, more air pollution and increased health risks. It will especially threaten the health of children, the elderly and people suffering from respiratory illnesses. The proposed rule will not make air quality safer or owning a vehicle more affordable.

The proposed rule would freeze fuel economy and emissions standards at 2020 levels for model years 2021 to 2026. It would also revoke the waiver granted to California that allowed the state to establish its own and more stringent standards for vehicle emissions. Thirteen states and Washington DC have already adopted the California emissions standards.

The current standards were adopted by NHTSA and EPA in 2012 with unanimous support from the American auto industry and broad backing from foreign auto manufacturers. They were developed over many years by internationally recognized EPA career staff using sophisticated technology recommended by the National Academy of Sciences and backed up by over 10,000 pages of analysis. Consumers can now choose from a wide range of fuel efficient vehicles that save them money at the pump and protect air quality.

The proposed freeze would increase greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 900 million metric tons and gasoline use by 500,000 barrels a day. Consumers would be forced to pay more for gas, with low-income and rural communities hit the hardest. And, adding insult to injury, the freeze would result in a loss of 60,000 auto industry jobs.

This proposal takes vehicle emissions standards in the wrong direction. This country needs clean car standards that reduce air pollution, improve fuel efficiency, strengthen U.S. manufacturing competitiveness and create American jobs. We say yes to safer and affordable fuel efficient vehicles, but this proposal is not the way to achieve those goals.

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