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EVEN THE CORONAVIRUS HASN'T STOPPED THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION FROM ROLLING BACK CLEAN CAR STANDARDS

Action Will Increase Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Elevate Air Pollution, and Cost Consumers More at the Pump

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 31, 2020) – Under the cover of COVID-19, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) are threatening public health by taking a short-sighted action to officially roll back clean car regulations that have reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improved air quality and increased fuel economy. [VIEW EPN'S INFOGRAPHIC](#)

The final [Safer Affordable Fuel Efficient \(SAFE\) Vehicles Rule](#) replaces previous greenhouse gas and fuel efficiency standards for new cars and light trucks in model years 2021-2026. The [2012 Clean Car Standards](#), which set average greenhouse gas emissions and fuel economy that manufacturers must meet for new vehicles in their fleets, were adopted with broad support from the American and foreign auto industry, labor and consumers.

“The Trump administration’s rollback of President Obama’s historic [Clean Car Standards](#) is an environmental and economic disaster,” said EPN member Jeff Alson, who served as a Senior Engineer and Policy Advisor in the EPA Office of Transportation and Air Quality from 1978-2018. “The rule will yield a hotter and more dangerous planet for our children and grandchildren, and will transfer money from the pockets of hard-working Americans to oil companies through higher gasoline costs.”

The 2012 Clean Car Standards would have required automakers to slowly increase average real- world fuel economy for new vehicles from 28 miles per gallon (mpg) in 2020 to about 36 mpg by 2025. In August 2018, the administration proposed a permanent freeze of the standards at 2020 levels. The new rule would only require automakers to achieve about 31 mpg in 2025.

The new rule is expected to increase greenhouse gas emissions by about 1.5 billion metric tons through 2040, contributing to global warming and the wildfires, extreme weather and environmental devastation caused by a warming planet. Less efficient vehicles mean more fossil fuel will be burned, costing consumers more in gasoline and increasing harmful emissions into the air.

“The rollback of effective greenhouse gas emissions and fuel economy standards will not bring safer,

cleaner and more fuel-efficient vehicles to U.S. roads as the administration asserts,” said EPN member [Patricia Koman, PhD](#), who served as a Senior Environmental Scientist in the EPA Office of Transportation and Air Quality and currently is a researcher at the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

“The rollback does not follow what we know from health science; it will instead make air quality worse and threaten the health of our children, the elderly, outdoor workers, and people who suffer from respiratory illnesses and heart disease,” Koman added.

Earlier this year, seventeen automakers, representing nearly 90% of domestic auto sales, called on the Trump administration to reverse course, raising concerns that the administration’s rollback could result in an extended period of litigation and market instability. China, Japan and India have all announced stricter fuel economy standards.

“Globally the goal posts for fuel economy standards and greenhouse gas emissions have moved significantly in the last two years,” said EPN member [Margo Oge](#), former Director of the EPA Office of Transportation and Air Quality.

“The EU, for example, set a new CO2 car standard at 76 mpg for 2030 with an aggressive plan to transform the entire auto industry to electric vehicles. And, adding insult to injury, even EPA’s own analysis found that the new rule will result in the loss of thousands of auto industry jobs,” Oge added.

ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NETWORK

Founded in 2017, the [Environmental Protection Network](#) (EPN) harnesses the expertise of more than 500 former EPA officials to provide an informed and rigorous defense against efforts by the Trump administration to undermine EPA’s mission to protect public health and the environment.