

A Vehicle Emissions Program that has Improved Air Quality, Protected Public Health and Saved Consumers Millions at the Pump Set to be Slashed 27 Percent

Since 1970, EPA efforts to reduce air pollution from vehicles have resulted in staggering improvements in air quality, public health and fuel efficiency. Cars and trucks in the United States are 99% cleaner, protecting people's health and saving lives. Increased fuel efficiency has saved consumers millions of dollars in fuel costs. Standards have sparked the development and use of catalytic converters, unleaded gasoline and on-board computers, which have made cars cleaner, more reliable, durable and higher performing. These achievements would not have been possible without the innovative work of EPA's state-of-the-art National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory in Ann Arbor, Michigan. While there has been significant progress in controlling pollution from vehicles and engines, more work needs to be done. Today more than 120 million people live in areas where the pollution exceeds health standards. People are traveling more and freight transport continues to increase. Innovation and a robust oversight program are needed to protect consumers and the manufacturers.

How will a cut in the vehicle emissions program affect public health, fuel efficiency and the industry?

The proposed budget cuts would:

- Seriously limit the lab's capacity to ensure compliance with emissions standards, resulting in increased air pollution and a potential return to air pollution levels once experienced in American cities and witnessed today in cities like Beijing and Mumbai;
- Severely hamper EPA's ability to certify vehicle and engine compliance and conduct oversight during a critical period in which multiple manufacturers are under investigation for emissions violations;
- Eliminate fuel economy testing under the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reporting Program on which the Department of Transportation relies for its fuel economy program;
- Cut the very popular SmartWay Transport Partnership, which promotes shipping with less fuel and less pollution; and
- Cost consumers more money to operate and fuel their vehicles.

How does the vehicle and fuel emissions program achieve results?

- Sets emissions and fuel economy standards for new motor vehicles of all types including cars, SUVs, minivans, pickups, large trucks, buses, motorcycles, off-road equipment, trains, airplanes and even ships. Every year, it certifies that over 4500 different vehicles and engines meet emissions standards and are eligible for sale in the U.S.
- Generates the familiar fuel economy labels found on all new cars and trucks, ensuring that consumers are fully informed about gas mileage and environmental impacts when they purchase a new vehicle
- Produces the fuel economy data used by the federal Department of Transportation in setting the corporate average fuel economy standards designed to improve the average fuel economy of cars and light trucks produced for sale in the U.S.
- Tests engines once they are "in use" to ensure that they continue to comply with the standards. The lab has been critical in the development and verification of "fixes" for consumer owned non-compliant cars.
- Provides critical technical data and guidance for state clean air planning

- Administers the Renewable Fuels Standards Program, which requires a certain volume of renewable fuel to replace or reduce the quantity of petroleum-based transportation fuel, heating oil or jet fuel

Successes of the National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory

Reduced Health-related Emissions - Motor vehicles account for half or more of the air pollution in many American cities – pollution that triggers asthma attacks, causes respiratory problems, heart disease and other serious health problems. The U.S. has been the international leader in regulating vehicle pollution and has the world’s most stringent standards for controlling emissions from cars to ships.

- Air pollution regulations are estimated to save 200,000 lives every year and health protections from the most recent vehicle standards alone save about 40,000 lives annually.
- EPA standards save about \$9 in health and consumer savings for every \$1 spent on technology.

Reduced Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Motor vehicles generate about one third of the greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. EPA has set GHG emissions standards for cars, SUVs and large trucks and buses.

- The standards for cars and SUVs, which will require continuous improvement each year, will cut GHG emissions by nearly half and double fuel economy for new vehicles by 2025. EPA based the standards on 10,000 pages of technical analysis conducted over eight years – the most comprehensive federal automotive technology review ever undertaken.
- Many consider these car and SUV standards to be the single most important action taken by any country to address climate change. They will save six billion metric tons of GHG over the lifetimes of vehicles sold from 2012-2025.
- Since the standards went into effect in 2012, GHG emissions have gone down while vehicle sales and jobs have increased, and consumer fuel savings have exceeded technology costs.

Effective Compliance - The work of the lab protects vehicle manufacturers who comply with the standards by leveling the playing field against manufacturers who willfully circumvent compliance.

- Engineers at the lab were instrumental in determining exactly how Volkswagen cheated consumers on emissions tests and provided the evidence that led to six criminal indictments and a \$25 billion settlement with the company.
- On May 17, 2017, the U.S. Department of Justice announced plans to file a complaint against Fiat Chrysler for emissions violations. Several other companies are under scrutiny for possible emissions violations. The lab is currently conducting tests in support of those investigations.

European countries are moving away from contracting compliance to manufacturers and toward the successful U.S. model of federal oversight.

Baseline Budget FY 2016

\$109 million, 369 FTE (Staff)

For Further information

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