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Trump's Clash With Calif. Leaves Automakers In The Lurch. February 5, 2018

Automakers have found themselves in the middle of a clash between the Trump administration and California.

The Golden State is the country's largest car market, and Gov. Jerry Brown (D) wants to get 5 million electric vehicles on California's roads by 2030. That goal includes an ambitious fuel economy standard and EV mandates.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration is working to free automakers of environmental regulations and has even threatened to strip California of the authority to set requirements within its own borders. Relaxing federal standards won't do much unless the administration can block California's regulations, since carmakers can't afford to manufacture different cars for different parts of the country. That has left automakers to gamble on which side will come out on top.

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