

SAFE CLIMATE CAMPAIGN

Statement by Dan Becker on Today's Attack on Clean Cars

Marching in lockstep, Trump, Pruitt and the automakers are moving smartly back to the 1950s as they Make America Polluted Again.

After killing the Clean Power Plan and pulling out of the Paris climate agreement, the president has declared war on clean cars, driver's wallets, oil savings and a healthy environment. With his auto company partners, Trump is dismantling the biggest single step any nation has taken to fight global warming and save oil.

The smart technology in clean cars saves far more money than it costs. By undermining the money-saving clean air rules, the auto companies are reaching into our wallets while increasing pollution from cars that will be on the road for years to come.

The 1970 Clean Air Act gave California and other states the right to protect their citizens' health with tougher standards than the federal government adopts. Until today, they and the federal government have been united behind stringent clean-car rules. The states will meet any Trump rollback by protecting their citizens from excessive pollution. Ultimately, California will lead these clean-car states in preparing rules that would take effect in 2026. They will set the stage for strong federal standards that will reduce emissions long after Trump leaves office.

Automakers beware: the states bat last.

Under the strong current standards, automakers have enjoyed record sales and record profits--and have added 700,000 jobs.

Auto companies have the cost-effective technology--better engines and transmissions, high strength-low weight materials--to safely meet the 2025 standards. This is auto mechanics, not rocket science.

Even Ford, the king of the gas guzzler, is raising a yellow flag. After calling on Trump last year to dismantle the rules, its executive chairman and CEO said this week they did not want to roll them back--although they favor expanding loopholes.

If Trump and Pruitt weaken the rules, promoting gas-guzzling Trumpmobiles, we'll pay more at the pump, depend more on oil from unfriendly countries and pollute our kids' atmosphere. Automakers will jeopardize their record sales and profits achieved under the standards, and grow weaker by making too many gas guzzlers--the very course that led GM and Chrysler to bankruptcy and an \$85-billion bailout not even a decade ago.

The Safe Climate Campaign, a project of the Center for Auto Safety, is a Washington-based environmental organization that advocates strong measures to fight global warming