



SAFE CLIMATE CAMPAIGN

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

This is a massive rollback of the biggest single step any nation has taken against global warming. This extreme rollback might just earn Trump a Nobel Prize for pollution. Driven by industry, the president is waging war on the environment and consumers.

Trump's industry-driven rollback represents the triumph of anti-environmental ideology over common sense and will make America polluted again.

For an administration that is happy to let states set their own rules when it comes to weakening environmental protection, it's the height of hypocrisy to deny California and a dozen other states their right to protect their people from global warming.

Trump is cynically attempting to justify the rollbacks with a parade of concocted horrors. None has occurred six years after the standards' adoption. Now, his administration has trotted out the old safety canard that the government's own data disproves. Better engineering, stronger materials and improved technology, including airbags and anti-lock brakes, deliver safer cars. Weight does not.

The administration may claim that the cost of gas-saving technology will hurt sales. But it hasn't in the past. In fact, since the Obama standards were introduced, fuel efficiency has increased year after year, and the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers has cheered the industry's "unprecedented seven-year growth trend."

They can't have it both ways.

Turning scare tactics into an art form, the administration hinges its prediction of crashes on its assumption that Americans will drive nearly 1.1 trillion more miles than originally estimated. That's more than 115 round trips to Pluto.

Since Trump's first days in office, the automakers have lobbied him to roll back the most important protections against global warming. They all deserve special scorn from anyone with lungs.

When the automakers asked Trump to roll the clean-car rules downhill, they didn't check whether he would disconnect the brakes. Now, wary of a potential public relations disaster, even the auto companies distanced themselves from the president. The automakers want the rollbacks, but not the blame for higher costs at the pump (as much as \$36 billion in 2030), more pollution and more demand for oil.

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.