



SAFE CLIMATE CAMPAIGN

For Immediate Release
March 6, 2019
Contact: Dan Becker
202-328-0007

Automakers Fail to Improve Gas Mileage and Cut Air Pollution

Statement of Dan Becker, director, Safe Climate Campaign, On the EPA Automotive Trends Report

The Trump administration has proposed rolling back the Obama mileage and emissions standard, the biggest single step any nation has taken to fight global warming. Today's EPA report demonstrates the chasm between what the rules were supposed to produce and what the automakers delivered: The rules projected a gas mileage gain of 1 m.p.g. among 2017 models yet the new-vehicle fleet improved only 0.2 m.p.g., a gaping 80% shortfall.

Fiat-Chrysler, General Motors and Ford lagged all their competitors, according to the report, and they didn't even manage to do as well in 2017 as the rest of the industry did in 2012 when toughened targets took effect. Now they're pushing for even more escape hatches, which will mean worse gas mileage and more pollution. With records like these, they should be ashamed to be lobbying for weaker rules.

Instead of rollbacks that slam the brakes on progress, we need to close loopholes that encourage the shift from cars to gas guzzling SUVs.

Key details:

- Only Honda, Subaru and BMW met the targets without resorting to credits that let automakers deliver lower gas mileage in exchange for equipping vehicles with such purported gas-saving improvements as tinted windows or "passive cabin ventilation."
- Honda has pulled ahead of Mazda as the most efficient manufacturer. FCA, GM and Ford finished last, and Ford's improvement of 0.2 m.p.g. over five years was the worst of any manufacturer.
- SUVs now represent 43% of new vehicle sales.

The [Safe Climate Campaign](#), a project of the Center for Auto Safety, advocates strong measures to fight global warming.