



The two letters echo complaints that car manufacturers have made previously as the possibility of drawn-out litigation has become more likely. Their efforts have failed to persuade the administration to change its plans.

Dan Becker, director of the Safe Climate Campaign of the Center for Auto Safety, said the letters amounted to little more than political posturing.

“The reality was if they had sent these letters months ago, there might have been a possibility of doing something,” Becker said in a telephone interview. “But doing it at the last minute when they know the administration is poised to issue this rule any week now ... it’s just so they can say to people who object: ‘Oh, we were opposed, we weren’t in Trump’s pocket.’”

Automakers say Trump's plan to weaken pollution standards would hurt their bottom line

By [ANNA M. PHILLIPS](#)

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Automakers have asked the Trump administration and California to resume negotiations over fuel economy standards. (Irfan Khan / Los Angeles Times)

Some of the world's largest car manufacturers have delivered a unified message to President Trump: go back to the negotiating table on vehicle emission standards or risk crippling their industry.

Seventeen major automakers, including General Motors, Ford, BMW and Toyota, wrote in a letter released Thursday that the administration's plans to weaken car pollution and fuel efficiency standards would hurt their bottom lines and could produce "untenable" instability.

"We encourage both the federal government and California to resume discussions and to remain open to regulatory adjustments that provide the flexibility needed to meet future environmental goals and respond to consumer needs," the companies wrote.

The current regulations, put in place under President Obama, were designed to cut down on production of planet-warming greenhouse gases. They require car manufacturers to produce increasingly fuel-efficient vehicles so that by 2025 the nation's cars and trucks would average more than 50 miles per gallon.

U.S. automakers are already under pressure because of Trump's threat to impose 5% import tariffs on Mexican products starting Monday. Car manufacturers rely on extended supply chains in Mexico, and the tariffs will likely lead to higher prices for consumers.

The Obama-era emissions regulations are widely considered one of the country's most effective steps to fight global warming, an issue that Trump has derided as a hoax.

<https://www.latimes.com/politics/la-na-pol-automakers-trump-vehicle-fuel-economy-20190606story.html>