SAFE CLIMATE CAMPAIGN

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Statement of Dan Becker, Director, Safe Climate Campaign, on the Rollback of Clean Cars Rules

Of all the bad things President Trump has done to the environment, this is the worst. He is rolling back the biggest single step any nation has taken to fight global warming, cut oil use and save money at the pump. He is rejecting cleaner, efficient cars in favor of pollution-spewing, gas-guzzling Trump-mobiles for urban cowboys hauling lattes home from Starbucks.

Four days after the president took office, the auto companies encouraged him to weaken the rules. Amid a spiraling health crisis and economic turmoil, Trump is recklessly driving us over a climate cliff. By unraveling rules that would deliver a fleet of increasingly clean and efficient cars, SUVs and other light trucks, he is delivering a future of more floods, fires and infectious disease.

Don't be fooled. From freezing the standard to creating a minuscule increase in average gas mileage is no improvement. The only compromise is to the health of the planet and its people. As to the timing: It is a bad decision today, next year or 10 years from now. No time is a good time to put us and the world at risk.

The rollback is bad for the environment, consumers' wallets and people's lives, pumping hundreds of millions of tons of global warming pollution into the atmosphere, costing Americans billions of dollars at the pump, and causing tens of thousands of deaths from air pollution.

The administration has fabricated a false choice between safety and clean air. We can and must have both. This is auto mechanics, not rocket science. The auto companies know how to build cars that are efficient *and* safe.

The rollback is the administration's latest insult to the environment. It has already attacked the authority of California and other states to set their own strong air pollution standards, shredding a centerpiece of the Clean Air Act that protects millions of

Americans. Thirteen states and the District of Columbia follow California's auto emissions rules.

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The <u>Safe Climate Campaign</u> of the Center for Auto Safety advocates strong measures to fight global warming.