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Trump repeals Obama climate rule, paving the way for massive deregulation

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Donald Trump will cancel a text approved on Thursday by his predecessor Barack Obama, which was a cornerstone of American policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, White House spokeswoman Caroline Levitt said on Tuesday.

"This is the biggest deregulation in American history," she told reporters, assuring that the decision would allow Americans to save money.

The change, which is being opposed by scientists and environmentalists, who have made it clear they intend to take legal action to overturn it, would undermine the US government's climate action. The US is historically the country with the largest emissions of greenhouse gases.

"Trump is leading the country down a dead end" by promoting "oil pollution and air pollution," sharply criticized Dan Becker of the environmental NGO Center for Biological Diversity.

"This measure is illegal, defies science and denies reality," California's Democratic governor, Gavin Newsom, a staunch opponent of President Trump, attacked in a joint statement with another Democratic governor, Tony Evers of Wisconsin.

"We will not stop our fight to protect Americans from pollution," the governors promised.

The controversial text, known as the Finding of Risk, was adopted by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2009, when Barack Obama was still in office.

It determined that six greenhouse gases are hazardous to public health and therefore fall into the category of pollutants controlled by the federal agency. This paved the way for many regulations at the federal level aimed at reducing emissions of gases that increase the temperature of the atmosphere (carbon dioxide, methane, etc.) starting with trucks and private vehicles, which emit CO₂ by burning gasoline or diesel.

Its repeal would end a number of restrictions on vehicles and pave the way for the Trump administration to begin dismantling a number of other regulations, particularly for power plants.

The Trump administration, which has made it clear from the beginning that it intends to strongly support the oil and coal industries, has sought to overturn this decision for months, disappointing many scientists, who speak of an unscientific decision that is harmful to the public interest.

"The scientific evidence regarding human-caused climate change and its consequences was indisputable in 2009 and has become even more alarming and compelling since then," more than 1,000 scientists and experts stressed in a public letter in July.

The current US government, for its part, minimizes the role of human activities in climate change and argues that the gases that cause the greenhouse effect should not be characterized as pollutants in the classical sense of the term, because their consequences on human health are indirect and global, not local.

He also argues that removing the text will allow for the reduction of the cost of new vehicles, which have been on an upward trajectory since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

However, it is certain to be challenged in the courts and it is very likely that the Supreme Court will have the final say.

Although the latter, in which conservatives have had a decisive majority in recent years, has seemed open to dramatic changes in the legislation, opponents of the measure point out that it was his decision, in 2007, on which the EPA text was based.

"We'll see you in court," Manis Bapna, president of the environmental organization NRDC, recently promised.

Washington's return was announced as 2025 was confirmed by climatologists as the third warmest year on record on Earth, and as the consequences of climate deregulation are being painfully felt in the US and the rest of the world.

Despite the undeniable manifestations of the climate crisis, the fight against greenhouse gas emissions has been a two-year struggle in most developed economies, due to the lack of sufficient investment in technology to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

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