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“Trump is tanking sensible mileage standards at the worst possible time for consumers, who’re getting hit with sky-high prices at the pump,” said Dan Becker, director of the Center for Biological Diversity’s Safe Climate Transport Campaign, in a written statement. “Consumers will pay the price for these reckless rollbacks while Trump’s Big Oil and Big Auto buddies reap the short-term profits. This move spells short- and long-term disaster for people’s health, the planet, and even U.S. automakers who’ll sit on the sidelines while clean cars advance around the world.”

Trump rolls back car fuel efficiency standards

By Rachel Frazin
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The Trump administration has rolled back car fuel efficiency standards requiring automakers to ensure their cars and light trucks were using less fuel.

While the Biden-era standards would have been expected to get the nation’s car fleet to average 50.4 miles per gallon by 2031, the Trump administration on Monday brought that number down to 34.9 miles per gallon.

The administration argued that this would make cars cheaper, though opponents of the move point out that car owners could spend more on gasoline as a result. The change could also lead to more pollution and worsen climate change.

The Trump administration says that the move will make new cars $1,300 cheaper on average.

The Biden administration said its change, which would have increased fuel economy requirements by 2 percent per year for model years 2027 through 2031, would have saved drivers more than $600 in fuel costs over the lifetime of a vehicle.

President Trump touted the change in a Truth Social post over the weekend.

“BIG DAY FOR AMERICAN AUTO WORKERS AND CAR BUYERS! I have just approved new Fuel Economy Standards that TERMINATE Sleepy Joe Biden and Pete Boot-EDGE-EDGE’s ridiculous EV Mandate,” he wrote.

“The Dumocrats cost our Great Auto Manufacturers $Billions, forced Americans into cars they never wanted, and wasted Billions on Chargers that were never built,” he added.

The move comes after the standards were made toothless in the president’s Big Beautiful Bill as a provision in that law made the penalties for not meeting the standards down to $0.

However, now that stricter Biden-era rule is off the books, automakers will not legally have to abide by them, even if the Big Beautiful Bill would have prevented them from being punished for not complying.

The Trump administration has characterized the Biden rule as part of an electric vehicle (EV) mandate, arguing that the regulations were so stringent, car makers

would have to increase their share of EVs to comply. While campaigning, the president frequently railed against the Biden administration's pro-EV policies.

The Biden administration said it did not consider electric vehicles in its rulemaking — and that this rule did not require any such adoption — though automakers could up their share of EVs to meet the requirements.

A separate Biden-administration rule promulgated through the Environmental Protection Agency would have been expected to spur a significant shift toward EVs over the next few years.

The Trump administration has already repealed that regulation.

Environmental advocates lambasted the Trump administration's move to roll back the standards, including by pointing to the current high fuel prices, as gasoline prices averaged about $4.48 per gallon on Monday, according to AAA.

"Trump is tanking sensible mileage standards at the worst possible time for consumers, who're getting hit with sky-high prices at the pump," said Dan Becker, director of the Center for Biological Diversity's Safe Climate Transport Campaign, in a written statement. "Consumers will pay the price for these reckless rollbacks while Trump's Big Oil and Big Auto buddies reap the short-term profits. This move spells short- and long-term disaster for people's health, the planet, and even U.S. automakers who'll sit on the sidelines while clean cars advance around the world."

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