



Trump administration lowers fuel efficiency standards in effort to lower car prices

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The Trump administration has introduced new fuel efficiency standards, claiming they will lower car prices. But critics argue it may not save as much money as the White House is promising — and will lead to more pollution.

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The Trump administration has announced new fuel efficiency standards, claiming the changes will reduce the cost of new cars by approximately \$1,300. Critics, however, warn of potential trade-offs like higher gas consumption and increased pollution.

President Donald Trump described the new standards as a way to "take the waste out of building cars in America."

The administration is overturning Biden-era rules that aimed to increase the average fuel economy of new cars and light trucks to 50.4 miles per gallon by the 2031 model year. Under the new rules, that target drops to 34.9 miles per gallon.

The administration argues the change will eliminate the mandate for automakers to produce what it describes as more expensive electric vehicles, potentially saving buyers money.

The Alliance for Automotive Innovation, a group representing major automakers, supports the rollback, calling the previous standards "out of step with market conditions and consumer demand" and describing the new rule as an "appropriate course correction."

Critics, however, highlight the potential downsides.

Sean Tucker of Kelley Blue Book questioned the administration's cost-saving claims.

"It is not. This change, there's a lot of theater behind this," Tucker said when asked if the savings the White House are promising are realistic.

He explained that automakers typically take about five years to design a car from scratch, meaning changes in Washington may not immediately impact dealership inventories.

Tucker also noted that the Trump administration stopped enforcing the previous fuel economy standards last year.

"So rewriting the rule that you don't enforce has pretty limited impact," he said.

The move was also decried by environmental groups, who say the rule will lead to more climate change-causing emissions and pollution.

Plus, less fuel-efficient cars use more gas — at a time when Americans are already paying more at the pump.

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According to AAA, the national average for regular gas is now \$4.48 per gallon, up nearly 40 cents from a month ago and \$1.34 higher than a year ago.

Kelley Blue Book noted that while gas prices are a concern, the biggest expense of car ownership is the depreciation of the vehicle's value over time, along with the initial purchase price.

<https://www.gulfcoastnewsnow.com/article/trump-administration-lowers-fuel-efficiency-standards-in-effort-to-lower-car-prices/73931640>