

The Washington Post

Cleaner cars save money

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October 11, 2026

Letter to the Editor:

I disagree with the Sept. 30 editorial “[Trump’s fuel efficiency rules do not doom climate goals.](#)” The Trump administration’s reduction of fuel efficiency standards will cause harm to consumers, the climate and even automakers.

Congress passed Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards after the 1973 Arab oil embargo, requiring automakers to make cleaner, more efficient vehicles. Research shows the standards have saved consumers [\\$5 trillion](#) in fuel costs and prevented 14 billion metric tons of carbon from spewing into the atmosphere. The United States’ current predicament is the very situation auto-mileage and emissions standards were written for — high gas prices and worsening pollution.

The Trump administration said the new rules would lead to [vehicle cost savings](#). However, the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s analysis](#) admits the new standards will cost the average driver [\\$1,624 more](#) on gas over the life of a car bought under the proposed fuel rules, erasing any savings at the time of purchase.

By [backing the new rules](#), U.S. carmakers are putting short-term profits ahead of their ability to compete with Chinese advanced-tech electric vehicles. The new rule is a Trojan SUV. U.S. manufacturers risk losing global market share and watching jobs and profits go up in smog. People around the [world want](#) electric vehicles because they don’t guzzle gas and spew pollution, and consumers save money on repairs and maintenance. Sure, the best hybrids burn [roughly half](#) the gas of conventional cars — but EVs burn none.

The CAFE law requires that fuel economy standards be set at the “maximum feasible” level. The Trump administration’s are not. Courts should ensure that this assault on consumers’ wallets and lungs is reversed.

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