

DAILY KOS

Trump Rolls Back U.S. Fuel Efficiency Standards in the Middle of His Global Oil Crisis: ‘BradCast’

We’re joined — as we were last December, [when the new rule was initially proposed](#) — by DAN BECKER, [Director of the Safe Climate Transport Campaign](#) at the Climate Law Institute of the nonprofit [Center for Biological Diversity](#). Becker was instrumental in working with the Obama Administration during development of the original CAFE standard. That came on the heels of the 1970s Middle East oil embargo and U.S. auto industry crisis of the 1980s (after the industry faced near collapse for failing to create fuel efficient cars that could compete with Japan), and similar lessons learned during the financial crisis of 2008.

“The final rule definitely hurts consumers at the gas pump,” Becker tells me today. “It increases our use of gasoline and, because it increases the use of gasoline, it also makes the atmosphere more fully loaded with carbon dioxide pollution.”

Trump, he says, has “torn up” the previous standards meant “to prevent us from ever being held hostage over oil dependence ever again, at the worst possible time — when consumers are paying through the nose for gas, when we’re in the middle of a war that is threatening supplies, and when the atmosphere is fully loaded already with carbon dioxide pollution and is beginning to kick back with more extreme storms, floods and droughts.”

By: TheBradBlog
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- [Guest: Dan Becker of the Center for BioDiversity](#); Also: Massive hack at FBI
- *Election cyber infrastructure vulnerable as midterm voting begins...*

On today’s [BradCast](#): With his war raging, gas prices spiking, and our climate crisis getting worse by the day, the last thing you’d think he’d want to do is increase the cost of gasoline for American car and light truck owners as voters are heading to the polls. Voters will hate it. On the other hand, the fossil fuel industry is delighted about it. [*Audio to full show follows below.*]

With all of *that* madness underway — particularly the spike in gasoline prices and deadly, climate change-intensified storms wreaking havoc in Hawaii and the U.S. East Coast over the weekend, and one helluva storm and major flooding now predicted for much of the center of the country this week — it sure seems like a dumb moment to announce that the Administration will

be rolling back fuel efficiency standards for cars and light trucks. But we've got a dumb President. So, maybe we shouldn't be all that surprised.

Last December, the **Dept. of Transportation** proposed new rules that would rollback mileage standards known as Corporate Average Fuel Economy (or CAFE) requirements from the Biden era. The landmark regulations enacted during the former Administration mandated that new cars and light trucks sold by 2031 would meet an industry fleetwide average of 50.4 miles per gallon. Biden also instituted a \$7,500 rebate for the purchase of Electric Vehicles, which **Donald Trump** has already rolled back, [proving costly](#) to the U.S. EV industry. Under the Trump regulation, the CAFE requirements would be just under 35 mpg on average by 2031.

Following a Public Comment period earlier this year on the new rule — during which our guest today notes that the vast majority of Americans opposed the rollback — the Administration [announced the finalization](#) of the new rule on Monday. The final rule, explains our guest, is even worse than the one originally proposed last year, despite overwhelming comments in opposition from the public.

In addition to higher gas costs for Americans, the new regulations will also result in tons and tons more climate warming gases and other deadly pollutants being dumped into the atmosphere.

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