

LOCAL LEADERS' CLEAN CARS DECLARATION

As U.S. attorneys general, mayors and county executives, we – not federal officials in Washington, D.C. – are primarily responsible for the transportation systems upon which our residents and our local and regional economies depend. A clean, efficient and high-performance vehicle fleet is an essential component of these systems.

We strongly support the current federal standards for such a modern vehicle fleet agreed to in 2012 by the automotive industry, the federal government and the State of California.

We believe these standards are both necessary and feasible – a conclusion reaffirmed in a major 2016 study by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Transportation and the California Air Resources Board. This study found that auto companies are adopting fuel economy technologies at unprecedented rates and will be able to meet these standards primarily with conventional vehicles. The study also found that the cost of compliance will be similar or lower than anticipated in 2012, with substantial fuel savings payback for consumers. These findings are consistent with a major 2015 study by the National Academy of Sciences.

All Americans -- not only the residents of the states, cities and counties signing this manifesto – deserve to enjoy fuel-efficient, low-emission cars and light trucks that save money on gas, improve our health and support American jobs. We strongly urge the auto industry to join us, and to use its influence with the Administration to ensure that these standards remain in place.

Given our responsibilities to our citizens, we also strongly oppose and will vigorously resist any effort by the Administration to prevent states from enforcing reasonable, commonsense emissions performance standards for vehicle fleets sold in their jurisdictions. Such standards are particularly appropriate given the serious public health impacts of air pollution in our cities and states and the severe impacts posed by climate change, including recent storms, droughts, floods and fires that have hit multiple regions of the U.S. in just the past few years. If the Administration attempts to deny states and cities the basic right to protect their citizens, we will strongly challenge such an effort in court.

Whatever decisions the Administration may make, we are committed to using our market power and our regulatory authority to ensure that the vehicle fleets deployed in our jurisdictions fully meet or exceed the promises made by the auto industry in 2012. We look forward to cooperating with the auto industry to enable us to achieve this goal. Americans need and deserve clean cars.

If federal officials obstruct progress on this front, states and cities will pick up the leadership mantle to protect our constituents' health, support our local economies, and maintain the international competitiveness of the U.S. automotive industry. With the support of the American people, which we already strongly enjoy, we are confident we will prevail.

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