



Consumer Federation of America

**consumeraction**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 12, 2020

Contact: Jack Gillis, CFA, 202-939-1018

## **CONSUMER GROUPS ASK GOVERNOR TIM WALZ OF MINNESOTA TO BOYCOTT AUTOMAKERS WHO SUPPORT TRUMP LAWSUIT TO REVOKE STATES' RIGHTS TO MORE FUEL EFFICIENT VEHICLES**

Washington D.C. — Three national consumer groups are [urging](#) Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota to boycott the automakers<sup>1</sup> who are supporting President Trump's attack on states' rights and the Clean Air Act. These nine automakers are supporting the Trump lawsuit which revokes Section 177 of the Clean Air Act. This action will strip away states' rights to adopt a stronger vehicle emissions standard which will save STATE residents at the pump. Section 177 of the Clean Air Act has enjoyed bi-partisan support for more than 40 years.

Today's [letter](#) to Governor Walz from the Consumer Federation of America, Consumer Action, and Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety (CARS) says that by stopping the state's purchase of vehicles from these nine manufactures, Minnesota will be sending a strong message that spending state taxpayer dollars on companies that oppose the state's right to more environmentally friendly and fuel efficient vehicles is simply wrong.

The groups are calling on Governor Walz to demonstrate unwavering resolve for cleaner cars that save money at the pump with Minnesota taxpayer's hard earned dollars. As climate change becomes one of the most important issues of the day, this is no time to roll back progress on reducing air pollution.

Minnesota is a member of the U.S. Climate Alliance<sup>2</sup> along with 22 other states, and is suing the Trump Administration to stop this unwarranted rollback of popular fuel economy

---

<sup>1</sup> General Motors, Fiat-Chrysler, Toyota, Nissan, Subaru, Hyundai, Kia, Mazda, and Mitsubishi

<sup>2</sup> Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin

standards. “Governor Walz is in the perfect position to pressure automakers to drop their support of the lawsuit, and what better way to do that than reward those companies who agree that vehicles can and should be made more efficient,” said Jack Gillis, Executive Director of Consumer Federation of America (CFA).

The Trump Administration is waging an all-out attack on clean car and fuel economy standards. In addition to revoking the Clean Car standards, it is also rolling back the fuel economy standards. That rollback will cost Minnesota \$5.6 billion in lost fuel savings—money that should be put back into taxpayer pockets and the local economy.

A CFA [survey](#) found that over two-thirds of consumers across the country believe in a state’s right to adopt a higher emission standard that results in increased fuel economy. That is even more reason for Minnesota to continue its commitment to fight for the Clean Cars standard.

“It’s mind-boggling that any governor, regardless of political stripe, would support attacks on the Clean Air Act,” said Ken McEldowney, Executive Director of Consumer Action. “Apparently they are not invested in protecting the health and wellbeing of their families, youngsters and descendants, let alone the health of our entire planet. Taking an oppositional position to the Clean Air Act is irresponsibly placing short-term profits in front of common sense and empathy for future generations.”

Consumer Federation of America, Consumer Action, and Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety believe that by boycotting these nine automakers in state fleet purchases, Governor Walz will send them a signal that their support of the Trump Administration’s attack on the environment and against consumers has economic consequences and that Minnesota is committed to retaining the right to protect its citizens’ pocketbooks and health.

Read the full letter [here](#).

*[The Consumer Federation of America](#) is a national organization of more than 250 nonprofit consumer groups that was founded in 1968 to advance the consumer interest through research, advocacy, and education.*

*Consumer Action (based in San Francisco, CA) has been a champion of underrepresented consumers nationwide since 1971. A non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, Consumer Action focuses on consumer education that empowers low- and moderate-income and limited-English-speaking consumers to financially prosper. It also advocates for consumers in the media and before lawmakers to advance consumer rights and promote industry-wide change.*

*Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety (CARS) is a national non-profit auto safety and consumer advocacy organization dedicated to preventing vehicle-related fatalities, injuries and economic losses.*

U:\CFA Gillis Folder\Press Releases\Fuel Economy - Automaker Boycott Letter PR 2-12-20.docx