



Consumer Federation of America

consumeraction

February 12, 2020

Ralph Northam
Governor
Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Northam,

We applaud you for fighting against the Trump Administration's attack on clean car and fuel economy standards and for fighting for your citizens' pocketbooks and lungs. We urge you to take a bold step by holding nine automakers¹ accountable for supporting President Trump's attack on states' rights and the Clean Air Act. The rollback and freeze of the widely popular fuel economy standards hurts Virginian consumers, automakers, and the climate alike. We also urge you to send a message to these automakers by refusing to spend your citizens' tax dollars on their products.

As you are well aware, last September the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule to revoke Section 177 of the Clean Air Act, which allows states to adopt a stronger tailpipe emissions standard. This rule is now in the courts, with your state and 23 others fighting for the right to safeguard your citizens' well-being. We were very disappointed that nine automakers have sided with the Trump Administration in the lawsuit and have taken the position that this right, guaranteed by the Clean Air Act, which has enjoyed bi-partisan support for more than 40 years, should be stripped from the law.

Consumer Federation of America, Consumer Action, and Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety believe that by boycotting these nine automakers from state fleet purchases you can send a signal and show them that you do not condone the fact that they are actively working to roll back progress on the climate crisis and air pollution. Ultimately, this pressure will help

¹ General Motors, Fiat-Chrysler, Toyota, Nissan, Subaru, Hyundai, Kia, Mazda, and Mitsubishi

motivate them to abandon their support of the Trump Administration's anti-consumer, anti-environmental position.

Our organizations supported the original national clean car standards, and strongly believe that these companies have chosen the wrong path forward. We urge you to put your state's taxpayer dollars toward vehicles made by automakers that support clean car standards by fighting the climate crisis, reducing air pollution, and saving Virginian consumers money at the pump. In the likely event the administration finalizes its rollback of these vital consumer and public health protections, it will cost Virginia \$8.6 billion² in lost fuel savings. Those are crucial savings that should be put back into the local economy.

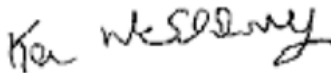
By implementing a policy to buy only from BMW, Ford, Honda, and Volkswagen – automakers who support the rights of states to adopt a strong clean car standard, you will demonstrate your unwavering resolve to improve air quality, address climate change, and save your constituents money at the pump.

The Consumer Federation of America stands ready to join you in a public demonstration of your efforts and would be happy to stand with you on the steps of the Virginia capitol to announce this critically important effort.

Thank you for your consideration.



Jack Gillis
Executive Director
Consumer Federation of
America



Ken McEldowney
Executive Director
Consumer Action



Rosemary Shahan
President
Consumers for Auto
Reliability and Safety

² Chris Harto and Shannon Baker-Branstetter, "The Un-SAFE Rule Update: Weakening Fuel Economy and Emissions Standards Costs Consumers Money in Every State," Consumer Reports, November 2019