

Elected Officials from Colorado Local Governments

March 30, 2018

The Honorable John D. Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

On behalf of the Colorado communities that we are privileged to represent, thank you for your leadership in working to reduce Colorado's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. We ask that you protect that legacy, now threatened by the impending rollback of the EPA's federal auto emission standards, by adopting Advanced Clean Car Standards.

On October 5, 2017, your Department of Public Health and Environment submitted comments on the federal government's proposed "Reconsideration of the Final Determination of the Mid-Term Evaluation of Greenhouse Gas Emission Standards for Model Year 2022-2025." The proposal would essentially undo the fuel economy increases through 2025 that EPA adopted in 2015. By 2030, these standards are estimated to annually save consumers over \$50 billion, reduce oil consumption by 23 billion gallons, and reduce national greenhouse gas emissions by 270 million tons. They have already spurred innovation in the auto industry, leading to all kinds of improvements – advanced aerodynamic design, lighter weight materials, better engine design, and new electric vehicle designs – all of which are helping consumers save fuel costs. In other words, these standards have been working well in Colorado and across the country.

An analysis by the Environmental Defense Fund indicates that the federal government's expected decision to freeze the standards at 2020 levels would increase the annual emissions by vehicles in Colorado of NOx by 15 percent and GHG emissions by up to 3.8 million tons. This is roughly equivalent to the emissions from 900,000 vehicles and nearly the amount of GHG reductions that are produced annually by Comanche Units 1 and 2. In short, it would undercut our shared air quality and climate goals and nearly wipe out all the progress we would have otherwise have made under Xcel Energy's Colorado Energy Plan and other statewide actions that you have championed, including your Executive Order goal of reaching 2025 GHG reductions of at least 26 percent compared to 2005 levels. Our residents have charged us with reaching aggressive local climate action goals. Freezing the standards would undermine these community efforts.

To protect the ability to reach our goals, Colorado can do what 12 other states and Washington, D.C have already done, which is to use the authority provided by Section 177 of the Clean Air Act to adopt a set of Advanced Clean Car Standards. This would essentially preserve current federal standards in Colorado with the notable addition of also requiring increased sales of electric vehicles. The required increases would be at a reasonable and incremental level that is in

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furtherance of the Colorado Electric Vehicle Plan and consistent with Colorado sales volumes already being achieved by at least two automakers. Such leadership would ensure that Colorado does not go backwards on clean air, climate or consumer protection.

Thank you for your consideration. Each of us looks forward to the opportunity to support you in making this decision to protect Colorado's climate for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

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