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STATEMENT ON THE EPA’S WEAKENING OF FUEL-EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

Today, the EPA released a new vehicle-efficiency rule that substantially weakens standards for vehicle emissions and revokes California’s longstanding waiver to set its own vehicle-pollution standards. Our new report details why EPA lacks legal authority to revoke California’s waiver. The Institute for Policy Integrity has also conducted extensive economic analysis of the EPA claims underlying this move.

Richard Revesz, Lawrence King Professor of Law and Dean Emeritus at NYU School of Law and director of the Institute for Policy Integrity, has released the following statement:

“Watering down vehicle-efficiency standards will lead to significantly more pollution and higher costs for consumers. This decision ignores clear economic facts, and it will leave the public worse off. In moving to undermine California’s longstanding waiver, the Trump administration makes clear that it is not interested in legal norms or cooperative federalism. It merely wants to slash and burn legally justified environmental safeguards that bring enormous benefits to the American people.”

Related Resources:

Our new report detailing why EPA lacks legal authority to revoke California’s 2013 waiver on vehicle standards.

Our report explaining why EPA’s withdrawal of the 2022-2025 vehicle standards is economically flawed and unsupported by evidence.

Our amicus brief in litigation over the Trump Administration’s attempt to delay penalty adjustments for automakers that violate fuel-economy standards. The brief explains why the suspension rule violates administrative law.
Revesz and other members of our staff are available for interviews on this matter.

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The Institute for Policy Integrity at New York University School of Law is a non-partisan think tank dedicated to improving the quality of government decisionmaking. The institute produces original scholarly research in the fields of economics, law, and regulatory policy; and advocates for reform before courts, legislatures, and executive agencies.