**Message Guidance: The Trump Administration Rolls Back Clean Car Standards and Attacks States’ Authority**

Donald Trump and his Dirty Deputies Scott Pruitt and Heidi King are poised to throw America’s clean car standards in reverse and launch an unprecedented attack on states’ legal authority to protect their citizens by setting limits on tailpipe pollution. Doing so would pollute our air, put lives at risk, and force consumers to spend billions more dollars on gas. With gas prices at their highest levels in four years, why would the Trump administration want to make drivers spend even more money at the pump? Trump and his Dirty Deputies are once again doing the bidding of deep-pocketed corporations and their Washington lobbyists with no regard for the hardworking American families who are harmed by their reckless policies.

**Gas is a big part of a family’s budget. The Trump administration’s plan to dramatically roll back clean car standards will force American families to spend billions more at the pump at a time when gas prices are already soaring.**

* Gas prices are at their highest level in four years, and families can’t afford to spend any more of their money at the pump. Clean cars standards protect family budgets from the gas price rollercoaster, and they especially protect households with the lowest incomes.
* Since Trump’s inauguration, gas prices have jumped 60 cents per gallon, meaning the average American family is already paying hundreds more dollars a year for gas. Rolling back the clean cars standard will make matters even worse.
* If Trump and his Dirty Deputies succeed in rolling back the clean car standards, they’ll ensure Americans pay more at the pump no matter what.
	+ Gas prices always spike, and when they you do, you pay more. Clean cars standards make sure you pay less, no matter the price at the pump.
	+ Trump’s rollback will make America’s cars and trucks less fuel-efficient, meaning that you’ll have to fill up more often even if you drive the same number of miles.
* America’s clean car standards have saved drivers more than $50 billion and counting. Advancements in fuel efficiency—spurred by clean car standards—are designed to save you money. These advancements pay for themselves and then keep saving you even more money at the gas pump.
* The current standards could save consumers as much as $5,700 per car and $8,200 per truck over the lifetime of their vehicle. Rolling back the standards breaks a promise to the American people, making these savings vanish into thin air.
* Trump and his Dirty Deputies have shown they’ll do almost anything to line the pockets of polluting industries and Big Oil, even if it harms American families. They’re doing the bidding of corporate lobbyists instead of protecting consumers.

**Americans deserve clean air. Rolling back clean car standards will allow automakers to make dirtier cars that pollute the air and harm our health.**

* The clean car standards not only put more money in our pockets, they also have the added benefit of reducing pollution that affects all Americans’ health, especially the most vulnerable among us.
* 25 million Americans – including more than 6 million children – suffer from asthma. We shouldn’t be rolling back safeguards that protect them.
* Even EPA’s Scientific Advisory Board, which includes members handpicked by Pruitt, is questioning the “adequacy” of his scientific justifications for rolling back these standards. Pruitt’s rollback ignores thousands of pages of research showing that the current standards are achievable, protect public health, and reduce air pollution.
* No one voted for more pollution and dirtier air. But that’s exactly what we’ll get if President Trump, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, and acting NHTSA Administrator Heidi King succeed in rolling back clean car standards.

**The clean car standards are the most effective policy we have on the books to fight climate change.**

* The transportation sector is now the country’s largest source of the carbon pollution that causes climate change; cars, SUVs, and pickup trucks are the largest source of pollution within this sector.
* Rolling these standards back will expose millions of Americans to more climate-changing carbon pollution and jeopardize our health.
* The Trump administration’s push for dirtier, less efficient vehicles would pump more carbon pollution into our air – which in turn could lead to more intense and destructive extreme weather events like Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

**Scott Pruitt is revoking states’ legal authority to limit dangerous tailpipe pollution. He’s gutting the Clean Air Act.**

* For someone who professes to support states’ rights, Scott Pruitt sure isn’t practicing what he preaches.
* Under the Clean Air Act, states have the authority to put in place stronger limits on tailpipe pollution when federal standards fail to protect their citizens. Thirteen states and the District of Columbia, representing 113 million people and over a third of the automotive market, have exercised this right.
	+ These states are backed up by an 18-state coalition, representing nearly 50 percent of the nation’s auto market, that are suing EPA to maintain the current national standard that protects all Americans from dirty air and rising gas prices.
* But Pruitt wants to revoke states’ authority to put stronger pollution protections in place and force states to follow Washington’s orders instead of doing what’s best for their citizens. Pruitt’s power grab would force Americans across the country to breathe air contaminated with toxic pollutants like nitrogenous oxides and sulfur dioxide.
* According to the American Lung Association, more than 40 percent of Americans breathe dirty, unsafe air. The head of the EPA should do his job and reduce toxic air pollution. Sadly, Scott Pruitt is working to increase it.
* When questioned in a Congressional hearing about whether he had any plans to undermine the legal authority that allows states to put in place more protective clean cars standards, Pruitt replied “not at present.” Documents released the day after Pruitt’s testimony indicate he may have misled Congress with that answer.
* Pruitt’s plan to revoke states’ authority to adopt stronger limits on tailpipe pollution would gut the Clean Air Act and harm millions of Americans, especially the elderly and children.

**President Trump and Scott Pruitt are rolling back the money-saving clean car standards to please auto executives, Big Oil companies, and Washington lobbyists**.

* Since day one, Trump and his Dirty Deputies have put the interests of corporate polluters and industry insiders ahead of protecting Americans’ health. Trump has proposed cutting the EPA’s budget by a third while dismantling health protections that safeguard Americans against pollutants like mercury, lead, arsenic, and toxic pesticides.
* Trump doesn’t care about making you safer or ensuring that your kids have clean air and clean water. He’s selling out our health for corporate interests.

**The clean car standards deliver the safe, clean, fuel-efficient cars that we want and need.**

* Automobiles on the road today demonstrate that increased safety and better efficiency go hand in hand.
* Fuel efficiency standards have made drivers safer. Scientists studying federal Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) standards found that [the original CAFE program saved hundreds of lives every year on average](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/05/03/scientists-just-debunked-one-of-the-biggest-arguments-against-fuel-economy-standards-for-cars/?utm_term=.04b1a9604c70) since it was introduced in 1975.
* American innovation has ensured that today’s new cars and trucks are some of the safest ever built, and thanks to the clean car standards they also cost less to operate and pump less pollution into our air.
* Time and time again the Trump administration has shown it doesn’t care about protecting Americans’ health or safety. This rollback isn’t about making families safer; it’s about doling out special favors to the auto industry and Big Oil.
* Reversing the clean car standards would hold back the most advanced and fuel-efficient vehicles the American people have ever known—harming their health and costing them money.
* We need safe and fuel-efficient cars.

**FOR 177 STATE MESSENGERS:**

**Scott Pruitt’s attack on states’ authority to protect their citizens from harmful tailpipe pollution is an unprecedented violation of public health, air quality and common sense.**

* 13 states plus the District of Columbia have exercised their right to establish strong tailpipe pollution standards to protect their citizens and environment. Millions of Americans are breathing easier thanks to these states’ commitment to bringing cleaner, more efficient cars to the road.
* [Rolling back clean car](http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-na-pol-mileage-20180427-story.html) standards will hurt all Americans, but Scott Pruitt’s rollback of states’ authority is an all-out assault on the 113 million people living in states that have moved beyond the EPA to protect their health of their communities.
* States must be allowed to manage vehicle pollution within their borders, as the Clean Air Act intended. For more than 50 years, U.S. states have had the explicit right to protect their residents’ health by reducing tailpipe pollution. By revoking states’ authority under the law, Trump is gutting the Clean Air Act
* [STATE] will vigorously resist any effort to strip its right under the Clean Air Act to protect our citizens, and our neighbors, from high driving costs and dirty air.