Senator Richard Blumenthal

Senator Chris Murphy

Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

February 15, 2018

RE: Support for vehicle fuel efficiency and GHG emissions standards - as well as the Zero Emission Vehicle standards

Dear Senators Blumenthal and Murphy:

We, the undersigned Mayors of cities and towns in Connecticut, support federal, state, and local policies that protect our residents’ air quality and climate. The Trump administration is currently working with automakers to try to significantly weaken the federal clean vehicle standards (light duty vehicles standards for CAFE and GHG) that were agreed to during the previous administration. These clean car standards are among the most important ways to slash carbon emissions and dangerous air pollution that threatens our public health. There is also a possibility that as a part of this effort, the Trump administration may try to undo the ability of states, such as our own, to adhere to California’s stronger GHG regulations. We are writing to urge you to prioritize and do all you can to defend these clean vehicle standards that protect the health and safety of our residents.

Transportation is now the largest source of emissions in the U.S., and causes nearly half of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in New England. The federal [standards](https://www.epa.gov/regulations-emissions-vehicles-and-engines/regulations-greenhouse-gas-emissions-passenger-cars-and) that regulate vehicle fuel efficiency and GHG emissions - as well as the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) [standards](https://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/zevprog/zevprog.htm) followed by California and nine other states including Connecticut and Massachusetts - are among our most important ways to protect our climate and air quality. These standards enable states to slash climate change pollution, protect health, create jobs, and push automakers to innovate with more and better cleaner vehicles that rely on less oil and in some cases no oil at all.

By 2025, vehicle efficiency and clean car standards are expected to: nearly double vehicle efficiency; save 6 billion metric tons of dangerous climate pollution; save individual consumers $1,460 to $1,620 in fuel costs; and keep 12 billion barrels of oil in the ground. According to the [American Lung Association](http://www.lung.org/local-content/_content-items/about-us/media/press-releases/ca-report-zero-emission-2016.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/), every year, pollution from passenger vehicles collectively costs the 10 ZEV states about $24 billion in health, including 220,000 lost work days, 109,000 asthma exacerbations, hundreds of thousands of other respiratory health impacts, and 2,580 premature deaths.

Early in the Trump administration, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt re-opened the mid-term review of the light duty vehicle regulations. Recently, Pruitt has said in a hearing that the California waiver that provides regulatory ability of states to create clean car standards, established in the 1970 Federal Clean Air Act, will be part of this midterm review, thus potentially threatening our state’s ability to ensure stronger clean vehicle standards and cleaner air for our residents.

We urge you to do all you can to protect the federal and state clean car standards from these ongoing attacks. We believe that preserving this state right is critical to protecting the health and well-being of the millions who live in our state.

Thank you for your continued support and advocacy for our health and environmental quality.

Sincerely,

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Bristol

Mayor Richard Dziekan, Derby

Mayor Luke Bronin, Hartford

Mayor Daniel Drew, Middletown

Mayor Benjamin Blake, Milford

Mayor Erin Stewart, New Britain

Mayor Harry W. Rilling, Norwalk

Mayor Saud Anwar, South Windsor

Mayor Shari G. Cantor, West Hartford

cc: Governor Dannel Malloy; Attorney General George Jepsen