

United States Senate

March 19, 2021

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

Thank you for your early commitment to restoring clean car standards while reviewing the previous administration's illegal attempt to revoke California's authority to set greenhouse gas and zero-emission vehicle standards. We write to urge you to maintain states' authority to set vehicle emissions standards necessary to protect the health and welfare of their people, while also setting strong nationwide standards for greenhouse gas emissions, fuel economy, and zero-emission vehicles.

We look forward to the coming proposals from the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to reconsider federal actions by the previous administration that removed the ability of states to protect public health and welfare and that reversed air pollution and fuel economy standards for passenger vehicles that would impose net costs, rather than net benefits, on the nation.

The *Clean Air Act* is a model of state and federal cooperation. It provides a minimum level of protection for national public health but defers to states to determine the best ways to keep the air clean. Importantly, the Act balances states' rights with the interests of a national manufacturing base by preserving the right of California, and other states that want to follow California, to set engine emission standards necessary to ensure everyone has clean air to breathe. That authority includes setting requirements for greenhouse gas emission standards and for zero-emission vehicles to address the threats of catastrophic climate change and harm to public health caused by pollution from engines and their related equipment and systems.

Importantly, California and other states need a strong federal partner. We support aggressive national standards for greenhouse gas emissions, clean transportation technology, and sensible fuel economy for passenger vehicles. We urge your administration to restore pollution standards that actually protect public health and welfare, set fuel economy standards at the maximum level feasible, and advance

national standards for zero-emission vehicles and equipment to ensure the United States remains a leader in clean technology, engineering, and manufacturing. We believe the national baseline should, at an absolute minimum, be built around the technical lead set by companies that voluntarily advanced their agreements with California. We also urge you to follow California's lead and set a date by which all new cars and passenger trucks sold be zero-emission vehicles.

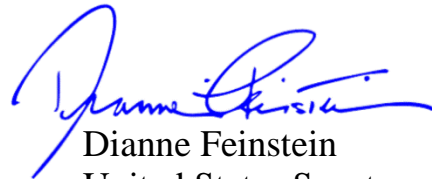
The automobile industry has shown it has the ingenuity and resources to reimagine our transportation systems in consumer-friendly ways. We urge your administration to take advantage of this effort and make real progress in coordination with states, like California, that share your goals to aggressively fight climate change by eliminating harmful pollution from the transportation sector.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter, and please let us know if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Gina McCarthy, National Climate Advisor
The Honorable Michael Regan, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary, Department of Transportation