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## **Attorney General Joins Colleagues from Nine States in Opposing Rollback of Vehicle Emission Standards**

*Rolling Back Standards Would Undermine Nation's Efforts to Fight Air Pollution and Protect Public Health, AGs Say*

**WASHINGTON, D. C.** – Attorney General Karl A. Racine has joined a coalition of states in expressing opposition to President Trump's action that directs federal agencies to reconsider vehicle emission standards.

The coalition, which was led by New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and includes the attorneys general of New York, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington State, and the District of Columbia, as well as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection, issued the following joint statement:

*"President Trump's action represents a dramatic wrong turn in our nation's efforts to fight air pollution from passenger cars and trucks, and protect the health of our children, seniors, and all communities.*

*Weakening these commonsense standards would undermine successful efforts to combat the pollution emitted by vehicles - emissions that cause widespread, substantial harm to public health and are one of the largest sources of climate change pollution. An extensive technical study by the Environmental Protection Agency already found that the standards are fully and economically achievable by the auto industry. Relaxing them would increase the air pollution that is responsible for premature death, asthma, and more – particularly in our most vulnerable communities.*

*We will vigorously oppose attempts by the Trump Administration to weaken our vehicle emission policies and put our public health at risk, and we won't hesitate to stand up for the right of our states to adopt stricter pollution standards that provide critical protections to the health of our residents and our environmental*

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resources.”

Attorney General Racine added, **“Air pollution is not limited by state boundaries, which is why we must work together and stand up for emission standards that protect our environment and our most vulnerable residents.”**

### **Background on Vehicle Emission Standards**

Because motor vehicles emit a variety of air pollutants harmful to human health and the environment and are a significant source of air pollution, Section 202 of the Clean Air Act requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish national emission standards for new motor vehicles. Section 209 of the Act authorizes the State of California to adopt emission standards that are generally more stringent than the federal standards, and Section 177 of the Act authorizes other states to adopt those same standards for new motor vehicles sold within their states.

In 2012, EPA adopted emission standards limiting greenhouse gas emissions from new passenger cars and light-duty trucks for model years 2017-2025 and beyond. California has adopted parallel vehicle emission standards limiting greenhouse gas emissions for those same model years, which New York and several other states have adopted as state law. The combined emission standards, together with harmonized emission standards for other pollutants that are on the books, are expected to result in substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, dependency on foreign oil, and consumer fuel costs:

- Over the lifetimes of the vehicles sold during the 2017-2025 model years, the standards are expected to cut greenhouse gas emissions by two billion metric tons—the equivalent of the annual emissions of 422 million cars currently on the road—and save approximately four billion barrels of oil.
- Combined with the first phase of vehicle emission standards for greenhouse gases for model years 2012-2016, the standards for the 2017-2025 model year vehicles are projected to save families more than \$1.7 trillion in fuel costs and reduce the country’s dependence on oil by more than 2 million barrels per day in 2025.

In January 2017, EPA determined, in its “midterm evaluation,” that the current federal standards applicable to cars and light duty trucks for model years 2022-2025 are readily achievable by the auto industry. After an extensive technical review, based in significant part on information from industry, advocates, and other interested parties, EPA found that “automakers are well positioned to meet the standards at lower costs than previous estimated.” The agency concluded that, while the record supported making the standards even more stringent, it decided “to retain the current standards to provide regulatory certainty for the auto industry.” California is in the process of completing a midterm review for its parallel standards after participating in the federal process and conducting its own analysis of the feasibility of the standards.

The states issuing the joint statement have a longstanding history of working with California to adopt and enforce vehicle emission standards to combat air pollution. For example, several of the states successfully defended the first vehicle emission standards California issued to limit greenhouse gases from new motor vehicles in 2005. Subsequently, they joined California in successfully defending—in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals—EPA’s 2009 decision to grant California a waiver to adopt its greenhouse gas emission regulations. Several of the states also brought the landmark *Massachusetts v. EPA* case in which the Supreme Court held that EPA has the authority under the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles that

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endanger public health and welfare, and which subsequently enabled EPA's determination that greenhouse gas emissions pose such a threat.

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