



September 28, 2023

To: The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
From: Lori Brown, Executive Director, CT League of Conservation Voters

RE: COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF NEW FEDERAL RULES FOR CORPORATE AVERAGE FUEL ECONOMY (CAFE) STANDARDS

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the proposed CAFÉ standards.

The [Connecticut League of Conservation Voters](#) has been working for many years with environmental leaders and lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to advance solutions to climate change in the state of Connecticut. That effort has increasingly centered on the transportation sector.

Connecticut is currently making major investments to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels by expanding our electric vehicle programs and charging infrastructure. We are now in the process of adopting stronger vehicle emission standards for Medium & Heavy-Duty Vehicles as well as updating our existing Clean Car regulations based on the stronger California standards.

We have joined the growing ranks of states pursuing the benefits that cleaner transportation brings to clean air and public health, but also to address the disproportionate burden of pollution on environmental justice communities.

In our densely populated state of Connecticut, these low- and moderate-income communities are historically located near transportation corridors, such as I-95. ([Connecticut has the most congested stretch of this interstate in the entire United States.](#))

Car and truck exhaust is contributing to serious health issues including lung cancer, heart disease, and especially asthma. (Connecticut has some of

the highest asthma rates in the nation.) These frontline communities face the brunt of transportation-related air pollution.

Many states like Connecticut are stepping up to reduce vehicle emissions. We need the federal government to move swiftly to set strong standards that will achieve meaningful reductions in tailpipe pollution.

We urge NHTSA to finalize the strongest possible CAFE standards.

Vehicle manufacturers have the technology to meet these stronger standards that will save consumers money at the pump. The global auto industry is moving in that direction, but they must be required to provide the most efficient versions of gas-powered vehicles possible and not stand in the way of our transition to zero-emission vehicles.

Connecticut residents across the state—especially our younger citizens—are frustrated with the lack of action on climate.

We join them, along with faith leaders, families, business owners, and other communities choking on tailpipe exhaust to demand policies that reflect the urgency of the situation and that will benefit generations to come.

On behalf of the CT League of Conservation Voters, thank you for considering these comments in strong support of the most stringent standards possible. **Swift Action by NHTSA to finalize these standards is imperative.**

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