

**Testimony of Dan Boone, President of United Steelworkers Local 979 before
the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at the Public Hearing for
Reconsideration of the Final Determination of the Mid-term Evaluation of
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Model Years 2022–2025 Light-Duty
Vehicles**

September 6, 2017

As Prepared for Delivery

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to testify, I'm Dan Boone, the president of USW Local 979 in Cleveland. Our members work in the ArcelorMittal steel plant making stronger, lighter steel used in vehicles to make them more fuel efficient than ever.

Our plant is one of most innovative and productive steel mills in the world—and at the same time its one of the cleanest and it supports good, family sustaining jobs. Over a decade ago, our plant was closed up. Now, it employs hundreds of steelworkers and other employees making lightweight, high-strength steel used in vehicles to reduce weight and increase fuel efficiency.

Sound, long-term fuel economy standards can help continue to bring back quality, American manufacturing and job that can support our communities. We need to keep that progress going.

We know that fuel efficiency is already a jobs driver in Ohio. There are 80 facilities and 28,000 manufacturing workers employed building clean, efficient vehicle technology in Ohio.¹ Including the workers at Local 979. It's important to keep these standards strong to keep driving innovation and to help ensure we continue to grow.

Today's fuel economy standards are proof that sound regulations can go hand-in-hand with making manufacturing thrive. Ohio and auto sector are proving you build jobs while cutting pollution and enhancing energy security.

Our country needs to grow the middle class, not make things harder for them. We need good jobs and fair wages, so that working families can provide for their children, save for a rainy day, and invest in their communities.

And we also need to leave our kids a planet they can live on, protections to make sure that when people go to work they come home safe, and that we build up a cleaner economy that will be the foundation for generations of prosperity for working people.

¹ BlueGreen Alliance, *Supplying Ingenuity II: U.S. Suppliers Of Key Clean, Fuel-Efficient Vehicle Technologies*, May 2017. Available online: <https://www.bluegreenalliance.org/si2>

Keeping strong fuel economy standards will help us achieve all of these things simultaneously and it is the right thing to do for workers, our economy, and our environment.

**Testimony of Jack Hefner, President of United Steelworkers Local 2 before the
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at the Public Hearing for
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Hello, and thank you for the opportunity to testify today. As president of United Steelworkers Local 2, I represent workers building cutting-edge technologies that are helping to make our light-duty cars, trucks, and SUVs cleaner than ever. We are part of a much larger group of workers—a BlueGreen Alliance report found at least 28,000 in 80 Ohio factories and research facilities that are building the components and technology to meet clean car standards.¹

Here are a couple of examples:

Maxion Wheels has been providing reliable products and services to every major car manufacturer for over 100 years. They are the world's largest producer of wheels.

Today, they make aluminum rims you see on cars every day that are lighter—helping to keep vehicle weight down to improve fuel economy—that are strong and stylish. They also make functional, cost-effective and weight-optimized steel wheels.

In Akron, the members of steelworkers local 2 make steel commercial wheels that set standards in weight optimization, finish and durability.

Local 2 also represents members at Goodyear, where workers recently ratified a 5-year contract. Goodyear is one of the world's leading tire companies and is manufacturing tires that reduce the rolling resistance of cars by up to 27 percent, - improving fuel efficiency, while still providing the traction and safety people expect from Goodyear tires.

These are jobs that are supported by the effort to make the vehicle we drive every day more fuel efficient than ever.

I am here today to stand up for my fellow members and urge you to keep strong fuel economy standards to protect current jobs and encourage more innovation and job creation.

Thank you.

¹ BlueGreen Alliance, *Supplying Ingenuity II: U.S. Suppliers Of Key Clean, Fuel-Efficient Vehicle Technologies*, May 2017. Available online:

<https://www.bluegreenalliance.org/si2>

Testimony of Zoe Lipman, Director of the Vehicles and Advanced Transportation Program at the BlueGreen Alliance before the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at the Public Hearing for Reconsideration of the Final Determination of the Mid-term Evaluation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Model Years 2022–2025 Light-Duty Vehicles

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Good morning, Director Grundler and EPA staff. I am Zoe Lipman, Director of the Vehicles and Advanced Transportation Program at the BlueGreen Alliance. The BlueGreen Alliance (BGA) unites America's largest labor unions and environmental organizations to identify ways that meeting today's environmental challenges can create and maintain good jobs and build a stronger, fairer economy. Together, our partners represent millions of Americans.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these critical standards. Strong common-sense fuel economy standards have helped bring back American manufacturing jobs and are critical to sustaining them.

Over the past decade we've seen the automotive sector successfully meet world-leading fuel economy and GHG standards while at the same time returning to profitability and building great cars and trucks that consumers have purchased at record levels. The innovative vehicles being built under these standards are saving consumers billions annually at the pump, enhancing America's energy security, and combating climate change.

At the same time, the industry has brought back hundreds of thousands of direct jobs that are anchoring a broader manufacturing recovery.

These standards are demonstrating that we can create and sustain jobs, and rebuild American manufacturing, while protecting our environment and human health.

In May, the BlueGreen Alliance co-authored a report with the Natural Resources Defense Council called *Supplying Ingenuity II: U.S. Suppliers of Key Clean Fuel-Efficient Technology*. The report assessed the companies and workers across the US making the specific technologies that go into improving fuel economy. It finds nearly 288,000 American workers building this technology today - that's at over 1200 factories and engineering facilities in 48 states and in 335 congressional districts. In the top five states alone - Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee and Kentucky - building cleaner vehicle technologies supports nearly 160,000 manufacturing jobs.

But innovation and investment to build advanced vehicle technology of all kinds is taking place nationwide. For example, Indiana has long been a leader in heavy-truck manufacturing, so its not surprising to find that it's host to diesel engine and heavy-duty transmission innovators. But the state is also home to extensive innovation in hybrid and electric-drive technology. California is seeing growth in auto assembly; steel mills in Ohio are bringing back jobs developing and producing cutting-edge

automotive materials; Texas is producing the components that make SUVs cleaner and more fuel efficient; and South Carolina is building advanced gasoline engine technology and electric buses. (The report, and diagrams that show the breadth of fuel efficient component and materials manufacturing, are attached.)

The report illustrates how the certainty provided by robust long-term standards enables the enhanced innovation and investments needed to lead globally. It shows how investments to more rapidly develop, enhance and deploy advanced and efficient technology not only result in huge savings to consumers, but directly translate into billions of dollars in orders for domestically made technology and investments in upgrading and retooling factories and jobs all across America.

At a time when the nation is focused on how to create and maintain good manufacturing jobs, these standards are working. And as we go forward, maintaining a trajectory of robust long-term fuel economy and clean vehicle standards through 2025 – and beyond - is vital to sustained innovation, investment and job growth

Today more than ever, as America's competitors in Europe and Asia are moving full speed ahead, securing existing jobs and continuing to create new ones will depend on retaining a domestic edge in innovation and manufacturing.

At the same time, we need to improve and enforce trade, manufacturing, and labor policies to ensure we lead in manufacturing the next generation of automotive technology in America and create good, safe, family-supporting jobs doing so.

By contrast, stepping back from vehicle fuel economy and greenhouse gas standards – and from other sound labor and environmental standards – puts this economic success story and jobs at risk.

Over the past decade, American companies and workers have shown that we have what it takes to lead globally in the next generation of advanced vehicle technology and manufacturing; and we have shown that we can come together and craft effective solutions to our biggest environmental and economic challenges. This is no time for America to step back.

As it considers these standards, the Agency should understand that all across America manufacturing jobs depend on keeping these standards strong.

Thank you.

Testimony of Lee Geisse, Ohio Regional Program Manager for the BlueGreen Alliance before the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at the Public Hearing for Reconsideration of the Final Determination of the Mid-term Evaluation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Model Years 2022–2025 Light-Duty Vehicles

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Lee Geisse and I am the Regional Program Manager for the BlueGreen Alliance, a partnership of some of America's largest unions and most influential environmental organizations founded by the Steelworkers and Sierra Club over a decade ago.

From an economic, environmental, public health, and consumer standpoint, it is a no-brainer to keep strong standards for fuel economy. As-is, the fuel economy standards will double the average fuel efficiency of new cars and light trucks, deeply cutting pollution, spurring innovation and manufacturing job growth, saving consumers at the pump, and reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

From the perspective of workers, American manufacturing and the economy, these standards have been a major success.

Here in Ohio, we've seen the resurgence of the auto industry since the near collapse back in the 2000s. That resurgence has been fueled and strengthened by this effort to make all our vehicles cleaner than ever before. Around the country, there are an estimated 288,000 workers building the components that make our cars and light trucks cleaner and more fuel efficient. Ten percent of those jobs are in Ohio, which ranks third nationally according to a report the BlueGreen Alliance released earlier this year.¹

Around the state of Ohio, workers are building fuel-efficient technologies—everything from more efficient engines to stronger, lighter weight steel to advanced transmissions to low-rolling resistance tires.

Around the state of Ohio, businesses are innovating to meet and exceed these standards.

And, around the state of Ohio, manufacturing jobs are growing as a result of efforts to meet these standards.

We should keep them strong to continue that innovation and job growth, as well as to protect our environment.

Thank you.

¹ BlueGreen Alliance, *Supplying Ingenuity II: U.S. Suppliers Of Key Clean, Fuel-Efficient Vehicle Technologies*, May 2017. Available online: <https://www.bluegreenalliance.org/si2>