



CREATING GOOD JOBS, A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, AND A FAIR AND THRIVING ECONOMY

TESTIMONY

**Lee Geisse, Regional Program Manager for Ohio
BlueGreen Alliance**
**Before the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**
***RE: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the Safer Affordable Fuel-
Efficient
Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 for Passenger Cars and Light
Trucks***
Docket No. NHTSA-2018-0067; EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0283
September 26, 2018 – Pittsburgh, PA

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

Sound, long-term fuel economy standards have helped bring back quality, American manufacturing and jobs that support our communities. We need to keep that progress going. Your proposal to rollback these standards will move us in the wrong direction, and risks sending investment, manufacturing, and jobs overseas.

We know that fuel efficiency is already a jobs driver in Ohio. There are at least 80 facilities and 28,000 manufacturing workers employed building clean, efficient vehicle technology in Ohio.¹ Automakers have invested at least \$10 billion in 17 factories in our state since 2008²—in part because of the fuel economy standards that are driving innovation—and that’s without counting

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

² BlueGreen Alliance, *Driving Investment: How Fuel Efficiency is Rebuilding American Manufacturing*. January 2018. Available: <https://www.bluegreenalliance.org/resources/driving-investment-how-fuel-efficiency-is-rebuilding-american-manufacturing/>

enhanced investments made by suppliers. It's important to keep these standards strong to keep driving innovation and to help ensure we continue to grow.

The standards have worked and will continue to work. They have ensured that any vehicle a consumer chooses to buy—whether a car, truck, or SUV—gets more efficient every year.

Strong standards keep investment flowing in our communities and secure the jobs of thousands of workers in my state. Freezing fuel economy standards will—by the agencies' own estimate—result in billions less annually in technology investment and 50 to 60,000 fewer American manufacturing jobs. The ultimate economic impact could be even worse for the nearly 1 million American manufacturing workers employed in the automotive sector. This freeze would mean we lose ground in the race with other countries to design and build the best new vehicles and risk losing more American auto jobs to other nations.

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.

I urge you to reject this rollback of fuel economy standards. Keeping strong standards will help us leave our kids a planet they can live on and build up a cleaner economy that will be the foundation for generations of prosperity for working people.