

# FACT SHEET: BLUNT ROLLBACK OF VEHICLE EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

**Senator Roy Blunt** (R-MO) has introduced **S. 1273**, legislation that rolls back popular and successful clean cars standards. **Senators Jerry Moran** (R-KS), **Todd Young** (R-IN), **Debbie Stabenow** (D-MI), **Gary Peters** (D-MI), and **Claire McCaskill** (D-MO) have also joined the bill. This legislation places the interests of the auto industry ahead of the interests of American families, who want clean air and vehicles that go farther on a gallon of gasoline.

Under the guise of “harmonizing” vehicle programs, this bill mounts a serious and direct attack on important standards that protect our health, save American families money, reduce oil consumption, and improve our national security.

## WHAT THE BILL DOES:

Senator Blunt’s bill stacks the deck for special interests while harming hardworking American families. The changes made by this bill would have significant consequences for our health, environment, household budgets, and even our national security. According to analysis by the Union of Concerned Scientists, passing this legislation would result in the following negative impacts:

- **Health and climate:** The transportation sector, already the leading source of climate change pollution, would emit an additional 155 million metric tons of carbon pollution.
- **Consumer:** Drivers would spend an additional \$34 billion on gasoline, instead of saving that money or spending it on other household expenses.
- **Loss of fuel efficiency:** This legislation would put manufacturers on a pathway to making vehicles that will miss the current fuel efficiency targets by 8-10 mpg in 2025.
- **National security:** America’s light-duty vehicles would burn 350 million more barrels of oil, increasing the United States’ reliance on volatile foreign countries and diminishing our energy security. <sup>1</sup>

## AMERICANS WANT CLEANER CARS:

The auto industry’s full court press to undermine clean cars standards is at direct odds with the overwhelming majority of Americans. A recent poll found that **nearly nine in 10 Americans (87 percent)** want automakers to increase fuel economy. <sup>2</sup>

Vehicle efficiency standards are popular for good reason. They protect our health by reducing carbon pollution, which contributes to climate change and leads to more asthma attacks and other respiratory problems. They are helping drive the economy forward, supporting **288,000 manufacturing and engineering jobs** across 48 states.<sup>3</sup> And these standards save families money, too, saving drivers between \$3,200 and \$5,700 over the lifetime of their vehicles by 2025.<sup>4</sup>

## CONGRESS MUST PRESERVE CLEAN CARS STANDARDS:

13 major automakers—including General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler—helped write the existing standards and CEOs from the auto industry sat behind President Obama as he announced the program in 2011. Now, however, automakers have changed their tune and are taking every advantage that the Trump administration is offering to get out of their promise to the American people that they will make more efficient vehicles. Their attempts could erode important standards that have concrete and wide-ranging benefits – **and that’s why we need Congress to reject any effort to undermine clean cars standards.**

#CLEANERCARS

<sup>1</sup> Union of Concerned Scientists, *Blunt Rollback of Fuel Economy Standards*: <http://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/attach/blunt-vehicle-bill.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Consumers Union survey: <http://consumersunion.org/news/2017-fuel-economy-survey/>

<sup>3</sup> BlueGreen Alliance and Natural Resources Defense Council, *Supplying Ingenuity II*: <https://www.bluegreenalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Supplying-Ingenuity-vFINAL-low-res.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Consumers Union, *Fueling Savings*: <http://consumersunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Fueling-Savings-Consumer-Savings-from-CAFE-2025-Final-1.pdf>