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AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY TO INTERVENE IN FUEL ECONOMY LITIGATION

WASHINGTON, DC, Oct. 28, 2019 – The Coalition for Sustainable Automotive Regulation announced that it is seeking to intervene in a lawsuit between California and the federal government, expressing the Coalition’s goal of achieving a unified fuel economy and greenhouse gas (GHG) program.

“The decision to intervene in the lawsuit is about how the standard should be applied, not what the standard should be,” said John Bozzella, president and CEO of Global Automakers and Coalition spokesperson. “By participating we ensure the concerns of consumers, autoworkers, retailers, and manufacturers are heard in this dispute.”

Since 2010, the country’s unified fuel economy and GHG emissions program has improved vehicle efficiency, reduced emissions, and provided regulatory certainty. Recent federal and California rulemakings threaten to upend this balanced approach and create uncertainty for consumers, autoworkers, retailers, and manufacturers. Coalition members had hoped to avoid this outcome and throughout the process urged both the federal and state administrations to maintain a national program.

“The certainty of one national program, with reasonable, achievable standards, is the surest way to reduce emissions in the timeliest manner. We did not ask for, nor did we want, these questions to be decided in the courts, but we hope this pathway leads to a solution amenable to all parties,” said Bozzella. “With our industry facing the possibility of multiple, overlapping and inconsistent standards that drive up costs and penalize consumers, we had an obligation to intervene.”

The world market is shifting to low-carbon transportation, and the United States should continue to be a leader in automotive innovation. One national standard allows for continued investments to be made efficiently to improve environmental quality. This shift needs to be supported by smart environmental regulations that provide the widest range of fuel savings for all consumers without unnecessary costs, help sustain manufacturers’ ongoing product and manufacturing investments, and protect American jobs.

The case, *Environmental Defense Fund v. Chao*, was filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

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The Coalition for Sustainable Automotive Regulation currently includes Association of Global Automakers, Inc., FCA U.S. LLC, General Motors LLC, Toyota Motor North America, Inc., and is growing. The Coalition supports one national program, with California, that provides year-over-year fuel-efficiency improvements, promotes innovation and balances priorities like affordability, safety, jobs, and the environment.