

Comment from Anonymous

Posted by the **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** on Oct 16, 2023

“NHTSA is proposing these new Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) and heavy-duty pickup trucks and vans (HDPUV) FE standards under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975, as amended by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. Environmental impacts analyzed in this Draft EIS include those related to fuel and energy use, air quality, and climate change. In developing the proposed CAFE standards, NHTSA considered “technological feasibility, economic practicability, the effect of other motor vehicle standards of the Government on fuel economy, and the need of the United States to conserve energy,” as required by 49 United States Code (U.S.C.) 32902(f). In developing the proposed HDPUV FE standards, NHTSA sought to achieve the maximum feasible improvement in fuel efficiency, accounting for technological feasibility, appropriateness, and cost effectiveness, including relevant environmental and safety considerations.”

I believe the effect of the new CAFE standards will be to eliminate internal combustion engines in favor of either fully electric or hybrid electric & gas vehicles. I firmly believe that these new standards will not be helpful to American consumers, motor vehicle manufacturers or even America itself. Beyond the initial effects on the current manufacturers who make only internal combustion engines, the follow on effects to the associated sectors (parts producers, repair shops, etc.) will also negatively impact the US economy. The Biden administration has already implemented the elimination of incandescent light bulbs which has had the effect of lessening the lighting choices offered to American consumers. Notice: these new CAFE standards will similarly negatively affect the motor vehicle industry mirroring what the Biden administration has imposed on the lighting portion of the manufacturing sector. When my mother was learning to drive (1950's), a car was easily afforded by teenagers. When I learned to drive in the late eighties, most teens had to borrow cars from family members. Now, many cars are fifty thousand dollars or more. Only a small fraction of the American population can easily afford this amount of money to buy a vehicle. Now that the administration thru the Federal Reserve has started raising interest rates, even fewer Americans will be able to afford vehicles. Given the less than effective public transportation sector, denigrating the ability of Americans to afford vehicles seems short sighted.

I would greatly appreciate the Biden administration reconsidering this regulation and to roll back this proposed standard, as they have similarly rolled back their ignorant idea to remove natural gas fixtures from American homes. With the relative cost of electricity vs. natural gas (as well as petroleum), I firmly believe that abandoning the proposed CAFE standards will be in the best interests of the American people.