



## TRANSPORTATION

### Auto trade group supports Biden net-zero goals

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The main trade group representing the U.S. auto industry said today it supports President Biden's efforts to achieve net-zero carbon emission transportation and shift to electric vehicles.

"Our goal is to work collaboratively with the administration to achieve greater environmental improvements than current requirements, sooner, while providing benefits for consumers, creating opportunities for job creation, and strengthening our nation's economy," said John Bozzella, president and CEO of the Alliance for Automotive Innovation, in a press release.

The Alliance for Automotive Innovation, formed in 2020, represents manufacturers that produce almost all cars and light trucks sold in the United States.

The group wants to be part of a revised national program that includes California and have all automakers work under the same requirements for a "level, competitive playing field."

The group said it would like to see clean car standards that are "midway" between the stringency of the Trump and Obama administration rules for the sake of "balancing environmental progress, safety, affordability, innovation and jobs."

The Center for Biological Diversity weighed in on the statement, saying that it was a step in the right direction but that strict clean car standards were still needed.

"We welcome the auto industry's retreat from its nefarious attack on the right of California and other states to protect their people from auto pollution," said Dan Becker, director of the group's Safe Climate Transport Campaign, in an email.

"But President Biden must not agree to the auto companies' request to negotiate weak standards after they repudiated their agreement to abide by the Obama-Biden standards they negotiated," Becker added. "To

protect the climate, the president should order strict rules slashing pollution from new vehicles and phase out gas powered automobiles by 2030."

### **'Gesture of good faith'**

In a related development, a coalition of automakers including Toyota Motor Corp. and Hyundai Motor Co. today dropped their support for former President Trump's effort to block California from setting tougher tailpipe pollution rules than the federal government.

The automakers said in a joint statement that they were withdrawing from a legal challenge to California's clean cars program "in a gesture of good faith and to find a constructive path forward" with Biden.

General Motors Co. previously withdrew from the litigation in November, shortly after Biden was declared the winner of the election (*[E&E News PM](#)*, Nov. 23, 2020).

"Today's announcement is a win for the hundreds of thousands of activists that have been pushing car companies that sided with Trump to change their course, act on climate, and defend California's long-standing authority to regulate vehicle emissions. But what comes next is crucial," Katherine Garcia, deputy director of national policies for the Sierra Club's Clean Transportation for All campaign, said in a statement.

"Automakers peeling off like dominos from Trump's misguided and dangerous lawsuits don't deserve praise for doing the bare minimum. All automakers must support strong federal clean car standards beyond what the Trump Administration rolled back," Garcia added.

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