



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Attorney General Frosh Releases Statement on Trump Administration’s Move to Strip States of Authority to Set Emission Standards**

**BALTIMORE, MD (September 18, 2019)** – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today released the following statement after the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) unprecedented action to revoke California’s ability to establish greenhouse gas vehicle emissions standards and to declare that California’s zero-emission vehicle standards are preempted by federal law. These standards are vital to states’ efforts to curb emissions and address air quality issues and the climate crisis.

“Once again, the Trump Administration has come down on the side of polluters instead of the American people,” said Attorney General Frosh. “California has led the nation in advancing clean air strategies and in addressing our climate crisis. Maryland has adopted California’s vehicle emission standards, and our air and water are cleaner for it. This latest action puts oil company profits first and puts the health of our people and our environment last. We will fight this destructive policy.”

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) are revoking California’s authority to establish greenhouse gas emission standards for vehicles, and declaring California’s zero-emission vehicle requirements preempted. Under the federal Clean Air Act, California may set its own vehicle emissions standards that are at least as protective as the federal government’s standards. Other states may also choose to adopt these standards. As part of the process, California is required to obtain a waiver from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Over the past 50 years, the EPA has granted 100 waivers for California standards. As a result of those standards, California has reduced emissions by hundreds of thousands of tons annually, encouraged the development of emission controls technologies, and contributed to stronger federal standards.

In January 2012, California adopted its comprehensive Advanced Clean Car Program for model years 2017 through 2025. The program combines the control of smog-causing pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions into a single coordinated package of standards. The rules save drivers money at the pump, reduce oil consumption, reduce air pollution, and curb greenhouse gases. In 2013, EPA granted California a waiver for the Advanced Clean Car Program. Thirteen other

states and the District of Columbia follow at least a portion of the Advanced Clean Car Program. When accounting for emissions savings from other states that follow California's standards, including Maryland, these emission reductions nearly triple.