



PRESS RELEASE

Attorney General Frosh Joins Lawsuit Against EPA for Attacking California's Advanced Clean Car Standards

BALTIMORE, MD (November 15, 2019) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today joined a multistate coalition in filing a [lawsuit](#) opposing the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) attempt to revoke the portions of a waiver it granted California in 2013 that permit the state to implement its greenhouse gas (GHG) and zero emission vehicle (ZEV) standards. The action is part of the coalition's ongoing fight to protect California's Advanced Clean Car Standards. Maryland and 12 other states follow all or part of these standards, which are a key part of state efforts to protect public health and the environment.

"Following California's forward-looking clean car standards has improved air quality in Maryland and across the country, and is a vital component of efforts to address the climate change crisis," said Attorney General Frosh. "With this lawsuit, we are continuing to fight EPA's harmful policies that jeopardize the environment and the health of Marylanders and the rest of the country."

Today's filing also includes a protective petition that asks the D.C. Circuit to review a separate regulation by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), which is designed to preempt California's GHG and ZEV standards. On September 20, 2019, Attorney General Frosh joined a coalition of 24 attorneys general and two cities in filing a lawsuit in federal district court in Washington, D.C., alleging that NHTSA's preemption regulation is unlawful and should be vacated. The federal government has moved to dismiss that case on the ground that it belongs in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. While the coalition maintains that the district court has jurisdiction over that challenge, in the event the court disagrees, the protective portion of today's petition preserves the coalition's ability to challenge NHTSA's preemption regulation.

Under the federal Clean Air Act, California may obtain a waiver from EPA to set its own vehicle emissions standards that are at least as protective as the federal government's standards, and other states may adopt California's standards. Over the past 50 years, EPA has granted California more than 100 such waivers. In January 2012, California adopted its comprehensive Advanced Clean Cars Program for cars and light duty trucks for model years 2017 through 2025. Operating pursuant to a Clean Air Act waiver from EPA, the program improves air quality and curbs GHG emissions while saving drivers money at the pump. Maryland and 12 other states have adopted the program in whole or in part, nearly tripling the program's emissions-reduction impact.

Attorney General Frosh joined the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin, as well as the cities of Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York in today's filing.