



**PROJECT 21**  
Black Leadership  
Network

20 F Street NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 507-6398 Project21@nationalcenter.org project21.org

June 12, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Scott Pruitt  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Secretary Chao and Administrator Pruitt:

We are writing to thank you for your recent decision to roll back Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) vehicle emissions standards for 2022-2025.

We are pleased to tell you that we've deemed the reduction "Blueprint Compliant."

The black leadership network Project 21, for which we serve as co-chairmen, called for reducing or rescinding CAFE standards in its 57-point plan for reducing black poverty and promoting black upward mobility, the "Blueprint for a Better Deal for Black America."

The black community has been prevented from reaching its full potential not only by racial factors, but by non-racial ones as well. Excessive regulatory costs that make products unaffordable are one of the most significant non-racial obstacles to black economic progress.

In your joint announcement, you said reducing CAFE standards from the 54.5 mile per gallon standard set by the Obama Administration is "a win for the American economy" and will be "good for consumers and good for the environment."

We agree. We've seen vehicle prices increase since 2009, a greater increase than any other durable good. Because these price increases hit all Americans equally irrespective of their ability to pay, CAFE regulations have a disparate negative impact on the poor, a significant portion of whom are black.

We also recognize that higher CAFE standards have a significant negative impact on vehicle safety while providing only "trivial moderation" of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

Increasing black hardship and jeopardizing driver safety for such a small payoff is simply irrational.

As you consider additional regulatory reform measures, we urge you to consider another key proposal from Project 21's "Blueprint for a Better Deal for Black America": Conducting "Minority Impact Assessments" on all new major regulations.

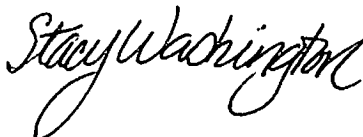
Before regulations are promulgated, we believe they should be assessed to determine their impact on job growth, home ownership, wages, consumer prices, etc. to ensure that they don't have a disproportionate negative impact on minorities, as regulations often do.

We would love to discuss this with you in further detail. Thank you for your kind consideration and thank you for taking this bold action on CAFE standards that will provide much-needed relief for black families while also saving lives.

Sincerely,



Horace Cooper  
Co-Chairman



Stacy Washington  
Co-Chairman



Council Nedd II  
Co-Chairman