From: Jason Cole
To: JCCR Exhibits
Subject: Oppose House Bill 2020!!
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This article just posted really gives a good snapshot of the progress that has been made. Please consider this.

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EPA: Fuel Efficiency Reached Record Levels in Latest Survey

The automobile industry continues to improve fuel economy while also reducing the level of greenhouse gas emissions from light-duty cars and truck, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said Wednesday.

The EPA's 2018 Automotive Trends Report found that for the model year 2017, the U.S. fleet average fuel economy was 24.9 miles per gallon, 0.2 mpg higher than in MY 2016 and a new record. Meanwhile, average estimated real-world CO2 tailpipe emissions were 357 grams/mile, a 3 g/mi decrease from the year before.

Preliminary estimates show real-world fuel economy of all new model year 2018 vehicles increasing again, to 25.4 mpg. Average CO2 emissions of are expected to sink to 348 g/mi.

Between 2004 and 2017, CO2 emissions and fuel economy have improved 11 times and gotten worse twice, according to EPA.

The improvements come as the Trump administration seeks to freeze Obama-era corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) standards at 2020 levels, maintaining the ambitious targets are uneconomical and unreasonable.

"Today's report shows that while the auto industry continues to increase fuel economy, there are legitimate concerns about the ability to cost-effectively achieve the Obama Administration's standards in the near future," said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. He said EPA and the Department of Transportation will have those concerns in mind as they move forward with their own rules regarding fuel efficiency.

Of the 13 manufacturers included in the report, all but Toyota saw fuel efficiency increase and emissions decrease between 2012 and 2017. In that period, Subaru decreased C02 by 43 g/mi, the largest decrease among manufacturers, and also had the largest improvement in fuel economy, with an average increase of 3.5 mpg, according to the report.

For 2017, Honda had the highest fuel economy average, at 29.4 mpg, with preliminary numbers showing the company holding onto the crown in 2018.

In 2017, the Mitsubishi Mirage was the non-hybrid vehicle with the highest fuel economy, at 41.5 mpg. The Mirage is expected to lead the field in 2018, too, according to the EPA report.

The report notes that the makeup of the U.S. vehicle fleet is continuing to

change over time.

In MY2017, trucks made up 53% of the fleet, with cars comprising 47%. EPA compared the percentages to 1975, when 81% of all production were sedans and wagons.

In MY2017, truck SUVs comprised 32% of production, while car SUVs were at 12%. Sedans/wagons were about 41% of the market. That's about half the percentage they were in 1975, according to EPA.

Average vehicle weight in MY2017 was 4,093 lbs., an increase of 58 lbs. from the previous year, but not much different than the 4,111-lb. average in 2004.

The report also looks at changing engine technologies and the use of EVs and hybrid vehicles. The number of EV and PHEV vehicles sold in 2017 reached 1.4% of production, with that number expected to grow to almost 3% in MY2018. The report also notes that EV range has been rapidly increasing in recent years, with the average new EV projected to have a range of 273 miles in MY2018.

--Steve Cronin, scronin@opisnet.com