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**ATTORNEY GENERAL DONOVAN JOINS COALITION OF
ATTORNEYS GENERAL ANNOUNCING INTENT
TO CHALLENGE ROLL BACK OF VEHICLE EMISSION STANDARDS**

Vermont Attorney General T.J. Donovan joined a coalition of 20 attorneys general to issue the following joint statement announcing an intention to [challenge the federal government's plan to roll back federal limits on tailpipe emissions from cars and trucks](#). The coalition includes every state attorney general from jurisdictions, like Vermont, that have adopted California's more stringent standards to reduce vehicle emissions, improve miles per gallon efficiency, and save drivers money on gas. The coalition issued the following statement:

"Federal rules to limit tailpipe pollution and improve fuel economy are our best strategy to reduce carbon pollution, improve air quality, and save drivers money on gas. The Administration's proposal to weaken these rules will cause the American people to breathe dirtier air and pay higher prices at the pump.

If adopted, the Environmental Protection Agency and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's rollbacks will cost American drivers hundreds of billions of dollars. Freezing or weakening these standards puts the health of our children, seniors, and all communities at risk, and increases the rising costs of climate change for our states.

This decision upends decades of cooperative state and federal action to protect our residents. We are prepared to go to court to put the brakes on this reckless and illegal plan."

Internal combustion engines from motor vehicles emit a variety of air pollutants harmful to human health and the environment. The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to establish national emission

standards for new motor vehicles. Section 209 of the Act authorizes the State of California to adopt emission standards more stringent than the federal standards. Section 177 of the Act authorizes other states to adopt those same standards for new motor vehicles sold within their states.

The State of California has adopted those standards, and Vermont and several other states have adopted the California standards. In addition to the planned rollback of federal emission standards, the federal government also proposes to revoke California's authority to impose its own standards. Attorney General Donovan and the coalition of attorneys general are committed to opposing the rollback of federal rules and defending the rights of California, Vermont, and other states to continue to enforce their own emission standards.

In 2012, EPA, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and California agreed to a single national program to limit greenhouse gas emissions and require fuel economy improvements from new passenger cars and light-duty trucks for model years 2017-25. The standards are expected to cut greenhouse gas emissions by two billion metric tons—the equivalent of the annual emissions of 422 million cars currently on the road—and save \$1.7 trillion in fuel costs.

In January 2017, EPA determined that the federal standards applicable to cars and light duty trucks for model years 2022-25 are readily achievable by the auto industry. The agency concluded that while the record supported making the standards even more stringent, it decided “to retain the current standards to provide regulatory certainty for the auto industry.” In April 2017, EPA arbitrarily reversed course and asserted that the 2022-2025 standards are no longer appropriate.

Vermont has a longstanding history of working with California and other states to adopt and enforce vehicle emission standards to combat air pollution. For example, in 2007 the Vermont Attorney General, with the assistance of other states, successfully defended the first vehicle emission standards for greenhouse gases issued by California. This case was tried in Federal District Court in Vermont.

Subsequently, Vermont and other states joined California in successfully defending EPA's 2009 decision to grant California a waiver to adopt its greenhouse gas emission regulations. Several of the coalition states, including Vermont, also brought the landmark *Massachusetts v. EPA* case in which the Supreme Court held that EPA has the authority under the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles that endanger public health and welfare.

Joining Attorney General Donovan in the coalition of attorneys general are the attorneys general of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Washington, and the District of Columbia.

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