

Testimony of the Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Former Governor of Michigan
September 25, 2018

Due to a prior commitment, I am unable to attend today's hearing, but ask that my testimony be read and submitted for the record.

It is with a great sense of pride I served the people of Michigan as Attorney General from 1999-2003, and as Governor from 2003-2011. These were tumultuous times, and we saw job losses beginning in 2000. Michigan was ground zero for the Great Recession, and we felt it, we really felt it.

The heart of Michigan's economy is and has been the auto industry. The two are intertwined in a way few understand and to be honest, unlinking them would be disastrous for the State.

Now, that does not mean Michigan should rely solely on the auto industry; quite the opposite. The state needs diversification and given our entrepreneurial spirit, sheer grit and ingenuity, it makes all too perfect sense for Michigan to be a leader in renewable energy.

Because of that spirit and ingenuity, our auto manufacturers, our suppliers and our workers have every potential and capability to lead in the creation of the next generation of vehicles.

I strongly oppose the roll back of fuel economy standards and I support the continuation of "One National Program for Fuel Economy", which brings all parties: California, the Federal Government, environmental groups, industry, and the unions, to the table to negotiate fuel economy standards that are significantly increased, while also being achievable. I support increasing the standards for a fleet wide average fuel economy for cars and light trucks to 54.5 by 2025, as the mid-term review found to be achievable

I would like to take a moment to lay out the facts. And let me be very clear, facts are facts. Climate change is real and is having real effects on people and the planet right now. Whether it is public health and increased asthma, cardiac events, sick days resulting in lost work or school days or the extreme weather events we are seeing across the country. These matters are not up for debate.

The calculation is quite simple, we reduce our dependence on foreign oil, make our air cleaner and healthier, save American families money at the pump, and if implemented the right way, provide the certainty the auto industry needs to be successful and globally competitive and create jobs in the auto industry. What is the problem?

Rolling back the standards and doing away with one national program is the Trump Administration snatching defeat from the jaws of victory.