



September 13, 2023

UAW Urges to Vote NO on the So-Called “Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act” [H.R. 1435]

TOPLINE:

UAW opposes this bill because union workers are not political pawns for the culture war.

UAW Position

The UAW strongly opposes the so-called “Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act.” This bill seeks to inject American union-made vehicles as a wedge issue into the culture war that is tearing apart America, and union members will not stand for it.

Union workers will not be used as political pawns. The UAW’s fight for a just transition to Electric Vehicles must put workers at the center, otherwise we risk a race to the bottom, which would be disastrous for workers, their families, and our country.

The UAW is leading the charge to make green jobs be good union jobs. The UAW organized the first EV battery plant in the country in Ohio. This bill only parrots demagogues and CEOs to pit ICE jobs against EV jobs. We must raise standards for both. UAW is committed to make EV jobs good union jobs with the same pay and safety standards UAW members have fought for and won for generations.

The EV transition will not succeed if the workers building ICE vehicles are left behind. If we have plant closures and the loss of union jobs while companies receive billions in taxpayer subsidies, it will cultivate and energize a loud constituency against the clean economy, just like this bill.

House Republicans backing this bill are pandering to the most extreme MAGA fringe that is dividing this country.

Summary of the Bill

This bill is misleading its purpose and would allow House Republicans to abuse their authority to prohibit the EPA from issuing waivers that allow states to implement their own standards on greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) for new motor vehicles. This would chiefly target California who, for going on 50 years, has been granted waivers from the EPA to set the strongest standards on GHG emissions in the nation. California’s waiver was revoked for the first time under the Trump Administration and restored by President Biden. The waiver is currently being challenged at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit by industry groups and 19 Republican-led states.

Talking Points

This bill misleads what it's really trying to do. UAW members build internal combustion engine (ICE) and electric vehicles (EVs). We reject this attempt to pit ICE jobs against EV jobs.

We are focused on the future of auto manufacturing in this country. The UAW is leading the charge to make green jobs be good union jobs. The **real choice** is whether we secure a fair share and healthy future for the workers who build and power this country or whether we continue a race to the bottom.

This bill is a distraction that does nothing to address the corporate greed plaguing our economy or the concerns of auto workers and their families. As the UAW's contracts with Ford, GM, and Stellantis are set to expire on Thursday, it is **time to pick a side**. Do you support 150,000 auto workers and their fight for a fair contract or are you focused on political sideshows?

Impact on UAW Members

The UAW supports and is ready to lead the EV transition. Our members are building the vehicles of the future, including hybrids, plug-in hybrids (PHEVs), battery electric vehicles (BEVs), autonomous vehicles, and increasingly efficient gasoline vehicles. UAW members currently build no less than sixteen models of electric vehicles. These members rely on a stable market for the products they produce.

This bill threatens to disrupt the EV consumer market for American union-made vehicles by inflaming the culture war. UAW members in Kentucky, Tennessee, Michigan, Ohio, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Virginia, and Pennsylvania build light and heavy-duty EVs. A vote for this bill will only risk jeopardizing these union jobs.