

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT**

)	
State of Nebraska, et al.,)	
)	
Petitioners,)	
)	
v.)	Case No. 24-1129 (consolidated
)	with Nos. 24-1133, 24-1157)
United States Environmental Protection)	
Agency, et al.,)	NOT YET SCHEDULED FOR
)	ORAL ARGUMENT
Respondents.)	
)	

**MOTION OF FORD MOTOR COMPANY TO INTERVENE IN SUPPORT
OF RESPONDENTS**

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 15(d) and D.C. Circuit Rule 15(b), Ford Motor Company (“Ford”) moves to intervene in support of respondents in these consolidated cases seeking review of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) action titled “Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Heavy-Duty Vehicles—Phase 3,” 89 Fed. Reg. 29,440 (April 22, 2024) (“Final Rule”).

Ford is a market leader in commercial vehicles, including in classes of heavy-duty vehicles and engines subject to the Final Rule. Ford supports EPA’s efforts to regulate greenhouse gases and other emissions from heavy-duty motor vehicles. Ford is committed to reducing emissions in its own fleet and scaling up its production of electric vehicles and hybrids to satisfy growing customer demand

and provide customers with choices in addition to vehicles that use internal combustion engines. Ford is investing billions in electrification efforts and creating jobs, including building new electric vehicle and battery assembly plants in Kentucky, Michigan, and Tennessee, transitioning existing facilities in Missouri and Ohio to produce electric vehicles, and expanding production capacity for hybrid vehicles.

The Final Rule sets standards for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from heavy-duty vehicles for model year (“MY”) 2027 to MY 2032, and selling electric and hybrid vehicles is a primary way by which Ford plans to comply. As a company directly regulated by the Final Rule that seeks a stable regulatory landscape for corporate planning, Ford has an obvious and substantial interest in this litigation, including in defending the EPA’s authority to establish emissions standards and aspects of the Rule that establish how automakers demonstrate compliance with those standards. The Court should grant intervention.

BACKGROUND

Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act requires EPA to establish standards for emissions of pollutants from new motor vehicles that cause or contribute to air pollution that may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 7521(a). EPA began regulating greenhouse gas emissions under this authority in 2010. 75 Fed. Reg. 24,324 (May 7, 2010). It subsequently

promulgated Phase One and Phase Two rules setting greenhouse gas emissions standards for heavy-duty vehicles in 2011 and 2016; the Phase Two rule established standards for vehicles for model years 2021 through 2027.

The Final Rule that is the subject of the petitions for review establishes emissions standards for greenhouse gas emissions for new heavy-duty vehicles produced in 2027 and subsequent years.

Petitioners in Nos. 24-1129 and 24-1133 take no position on this motion. Petitioners in No. 24-1157 and respondents have not yet provided a position on the motion.

ARGUMENT

Ford seeks to intervene in support of respondents and will urge the Court to affirm aspects of the Final Rule. As a company that is directly regulated by the Final Rule and that supports EPA's efforts to reduce emissions, Ford has a substantial interest in this litigation.

I. Ford Satisfies the Standards for Intervention as of Right

Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 15(d) allows a party to intervene in a proceeding to review agency action if a motion for leave to intervene is timely and "contain[s] a concise statement of the interest of the moving party and the grounds for intervention." Fed. R. App. P. 15(d). All of the requirements for intervention as of right are satisfied in this case.

A. This Court has held that “intervention in the court of appeals is governed by the same standards as in the district court.” *Mass. Sch. of Law at Andover, Inc. v. United States*, 118 F.3d 776, 779 (D.C. Cir. 1997) (emphasis omitted). Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 24(a), a party has a right to intervene if it “claims an interest relating to the property or transaction that is the subject of the action, and is so situated that disposing of the action may as a practical matter impair or impede the movant’s ability to protect its interest, unless existing parties adequately represent that interest.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 24(a)(2); *see Deutsche Bank Nat’l Trust Co. v. FDIC*, 717 F.3d 189, 192 (D.C. Cir. 2013). These requirements are satisfied here. Indeed, because Ford is directly regulated by the Final Rule, it is self-evident that it has the requisite interest in this litigation.

Ford seeks to intervene in these consolidated cases to protect its substantial interests in the emissions regulations that govern production and sale of all heavy-duty vehicles sold in the United States. Complying with emissions regulations requires lengthy advance planning, and Ford has taken steps to transform its business to ensure compliance with stricter emissions standards. Ford has a significant interest in securing the regulatory stability that the Final Rule will provide and preventing the possibility of flip-flopping or changing standards. And Ford has a critical interest in ensuring that a level regulatory playing field applies to the entire industry.

Ford's interests are not adequately represented by any other party in this case. This Court has held that adequate representation is not an onerous standard; rather, "a movant ordinarily should be allowed to intervene unless it is clear that [an existing] party will provide adequate representation." *See Crossroads Grassroots Pol'y Strategies v. FEC*, 788 F.3d 312, 321 (D.C. Cir. 2015) (quotation marks omitted). While EPA will defend the Final Rule, it cannot, as a government agency, adequately represent the interests of private, commercial entities. Indeed, this Court "look[s] skeptically on government entities serving as adequate advocates for private parties." *Id.* (citing *Fund for Animals, Inc. v. Norton*, 322 F.3d 728, 736 (D.C. Cir. 2003)). As a manufacturer selling vehicles in the United States and regulated by EPA's emission standards and related compliance provisions, Ford can articulate the impact that the petitioners' challenge, if successful, would have on the auto industry in a manner that EPA cannot. *See Nat. Res. Def. Council v. Costle*, 561 F.2d 904, 912 (D.C. Cir. 1977) (finding regulated parties' interests more "focus[ed]" than the government interest).

Accordingly, this Court has repeatedly allowed manufacturers to intervene in analogous cases, including recently allowing Ford to intervene in litigation challenging EPA's emissions standards for light- and medium-duty vehicles; allowing Ford to intervene in litigation challenging EPA's decision to enable California to regulate greenhouse gas emissions; allowing several manufacturers to

intervene in the litigation challenging EPA's SAFE Rule Part 2; and allowing a group of manufacturers to intervene in the litigation challenging EPA's 2021 federal emissions standards. *See* Order, *Kentucky v. EPA*, No. 24-1087 (June 4, 2024); Order, *Ohio v. EPA*, No. 22-1081 (June 30, 2022); Order, *Texas v. EPA*, No. 22-1031 (April 20, 2022); Order, *Competitive Enter. Inst., et al. v. NHTSA*, No. 20-1145 (Oct. 19, 2020); *see also* Order, *California v. EPA*, No. 18-1114 (D.C. Cir. Oct. 18, 2018) (granting intervention motion by group of automobile manufacturers in a challenge to federal emissions standards); Order, *California v. EPA*, No. 08-1063 (D.C. Cir. Apr. 3, 2008) (granting intervention motion by various automobile manufacturers in challenge to EPA Clean Air Act § 209(b) waiver decision).

B. Ford has Article III standing because it has substantial interests that could be adversely affected by this litigation. Because Ford "satisfies Rule 24(a)," it "also meet[s] Article III's standing requirement." *Roeder v. Islamic Republic of Iran*, 333 F.3d 228, 233 (D.C. Cir. 2003). And as noted, because Ford is regulated by the Rule at issue, its standing is "self-evident." *Fund For Animals*, 322 F.3d at 733-34; *see Lujan v. Defs. of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 561 (1992) (explaining that "there is ordinarily little question" that person has standing where he "is himself an object of" a challenged governmental regulation). The Final Rule directly regulates Ford and its competitors, and vacatur of the emissions standards or

related compliance provisions in the Rule would undermine Ford's interest in a level playing field. *Crossroads Grassroots Pol'y Strategies*, 788 F.3d at 317 (injury-in-fact exists "where a party benefits from agency action, the action is then challenged in court, and an unfavorable decision would remove the party's benefit"); *see Fund for Animals*, 322 F.3d at 733-34 (same); *Military Toxics Project v. EPA*, 146 F.3d 948, 954 (D.C. Cir. 1998) (same).

C. The motion to intervene is timely. It has been filed within 30 days of the first petition for review. *See* Fed. R. App. P. 15(d). This motion qualifies as a timely motion to intervene in all previously and subsequently filed cases in this Court also involving challenges to the Final Rule. *See* D.C. Circuit Rule 15(b) ("A motion to intervene in a case before this court concerning direct review of an agency action will be deemed a motion to intervene in all cases before this court involving the same agency action or order, including later filed cases . . .").

II. Alternatively, Ford Has Satisfied the Standards for Permissive Intervention

Although Ford is entitled to intervene as of right, it at minimum satisfies the requirements for permissive intervention under Rule 24(b), which requires only that a proposed intervenor have "a claim or defense that shares with the main action a common question of law or fact." Fed. R. Civ. P. 24(b)(1)(B). "Rule 24(b) . . . provides basically that anyone may be permitted to intervene if his claim

and the main action have a common question of law or fact,” *Nuesse v. Camp*, 385 F.2d 694, 704 (D.C. Cir. 1967), absent any indication of prejudice or delay.

The intervention here is timely; Ford seeks to intervene to defend EPA’s authority to establish emissions standards and adopt the related compliance provisions of the Final Rule, thus necessarily presenting a defense that shares common questions of law and fact with the main action; and intervention will not prejudice or delay any party.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Court should grant the motion to intervene.

Dated: June 12, 2024

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Respectfully submitted,

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CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 26.1 and Circuit Rule 26.1, the proposed intervenor makes the following disclosures:

Ford Motor Company states that it has no parent corporation. As of December 31, 2023, no publicly-traded companies have disclosed that they own 10% or more of Ford's common stock.

CERTIFICATE AS TO PARTIES, RULINGS, AND RELATED CASES

Pursuant to D.C. Circuit Rules 27(a)(4) and 28(a)(1)(A), Ford submits this certificate.

Petitioners: Commonwealth of Kentucky; Commonwealth of Virginia; State of Alabama; State of Alaska; State of Arkansas; State of Florida; State of Georgia; State of Idaho; State of Indiana; State of Iowa; State of Kansas; State of Louisiana; State of Mississippi; State of Missouri; State of Montana; State of Nebraska; State of Oklahoma; State of South Carolina; State of South Dakota; State of Tennessee; State of Texas; State of Utah; State of West Virginia; and State of Wyoming (No. 24-1129); Arizona Trucking Association, Warren Petersen, and Ben Toma (No. 24-1133); Western States Trucking Association, Inc. and Construction Industry Air Quality Coalition, Inc. (No. 24-1157).

Respondents: United States Environmental Protection Agency and Michael S. Regan, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Proposed Intervenors: Ford Motor Company; the States of California, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin, the Commonwealths of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, the City and County of Denver, and the Cities of Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York; Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, American Lung Association, American Public Health Association, Appalachian Mountain Club, Clean Air Council, Environmental Defense Fund, Environmental Law & Policy Center, Natural Resources Defense Council, Public Citizen, and Sierra Club; Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, Rio Grande International Study Center.

Amici Curiae: None appear on the Court's dockets.

Ruling under Review. The decision under review is “Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Heavy-Duty Vehicles—Phase 3,” 89 Fed. Reg. 29,440 (April 22, 2024).

Related Cases. Movant-intervenor is aware of no related cases other than the ones that this Court has already consolidated.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

Pursuant to Fed. R. App. P. 32(g)(1), the undersigned hereby certifies:

1. The foregoing motion complies with the type-volume limitation of Fed. R. App. P. 27(d)(2)(A) because it contains 1,608 words, excluding the parts of the motion exempted by Fed. R. App. P. 32(f). As permitted by Fed. R. App. P. 32(g)(1), the undersigned has relied upon the word count feature of this word processing system in preparing this certificate.

2. This foregoing motion complies with the typeface and type style requirements of Fed. R. App. P. 27(a)(5)-(6) because it was prepared in proportionally spaced typeface using Microsoft Word for Office 365 in 14-point Times New Roman font.

/s/ Elisabeth S. Theodore

Elisabeth S. Theodore

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that, on June 12, 2024, I caused the foregoing motion to be electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court for the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit using the CM/ECF system. All participants in the consolidated cases are registered CM/ECF users and will be served by the CM/ECF system.

/s/ Elisabeth S. Theodore
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