

June 19, 2019

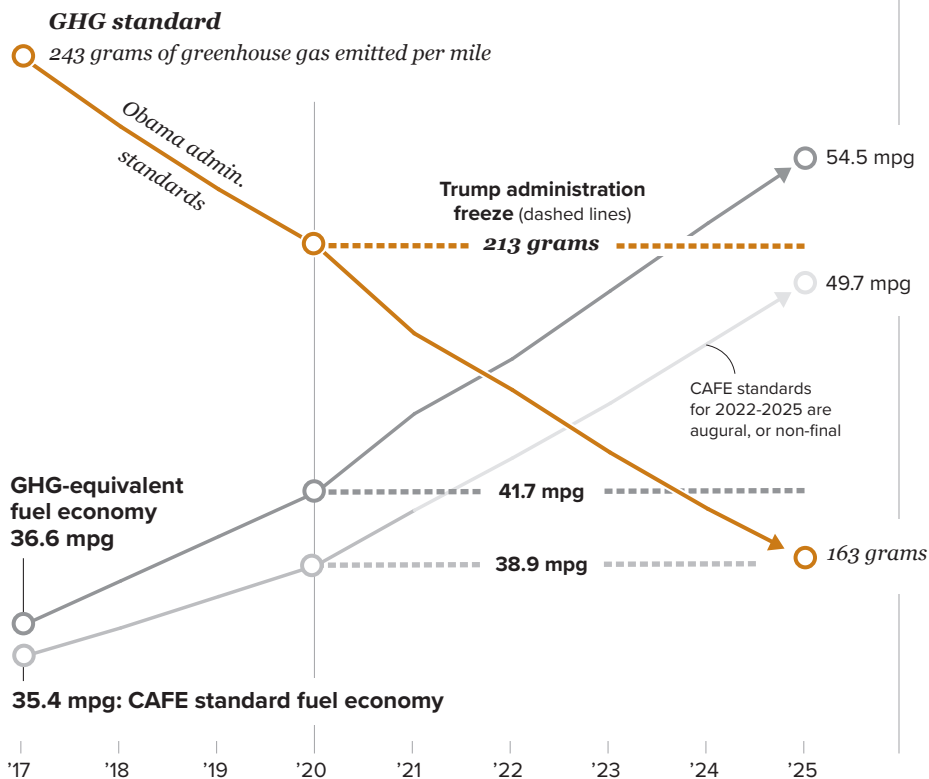
Trump wants CAFE standards to come to a screeching halt. Carmakers want him to compromise.

To avoid protracted litigation and market instability, carmakers have asked the Trump administration and California to compromise on light vehicle fuel efficiency standards. The Trump administration wants to freeze CAFE standards, but California and other states want to keep in place the tougher long-term targets set by the Obama administration. Two House Energy and Commerce subcommittees will hold a joint hearing on the issue Thursday.

The Trump freeze

In 2018, DOT and EPA announced the proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) rule for model years 2021-2026, which would lock in 2020 standards through 2026 to provide “a much-needed time-out from further, costly increases.” The agencies claimed that the freeze would prevent thousands of traffic fatalities by holding vehicle costs down so that more consumers could afford to buy newer, safer cars and trucks.

STANDARDS FOR COMBINED AVERAGE PASSENGER CARS AND LIGHT TRUCKS



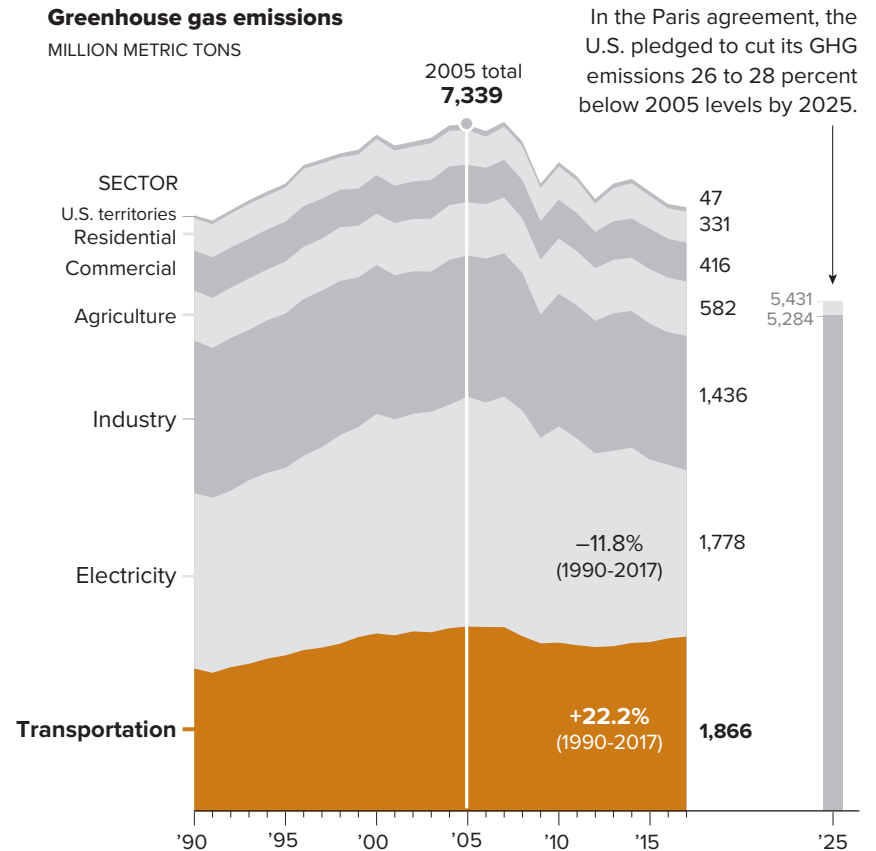
Sources: DOT, EPA, CRS, New York Times, Yale E360, NRDC, POLITICO staff reports

Transportation emissions on the rise

More than a quarter of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions come from the transportation sector. Obama-era fuel efficiency standards are designed to cut emissions from new light vehicles by 23 percent from 2020 to 2025.

Greenhouse gas emissions

MILLION METRIC TONS



By Patterson Clark, POLITICO Pro DataPoint