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On the Framework Agreement for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards Between California and Major Automakers

Statement of Paul J. Miller, Executive Director Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM)

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The Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) applaud the development of a framework to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from light-duty cars and trucks by California and a consortium of automakers, including Ford, Honda, BMW of North America, and Volkswagen Group of America.

This provides a viable path forward that helps California and other states to meet our collective climate and clean air needs, and maintains a national approach for participating automakers who will sell these cleaner cars nationwide. The framework creates an alternative to the U.S. government's back sliding on clean vehicle standards nationwide.

Today's action will further efforts to address well-documented climate change caused by human activity through the unconstrained combustion of fossil fuels, and the mounting economic losses due to it from increasingly frequent extreme weather events.

The transportation sector is now the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in our country, and, in the Northeast, a major source of smog-forming and other air pollutants that endanger the public health of millions of residents.

Despite this, the U.S. government is planning on carrying out its pledge to roll back this country's largest and most important climate program – the light-duty motor vehicle greenhouse gas emission limits and the corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) standards.

The NESCAUM states urge the U.S. government to engage in meaningful dialogue with the states and automakers on the principles in the framework announced today. The principles clearly show that California and the four automakers are dealing in good faith towards finding constructive solutions that address the threat of on-going climate change.

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