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Environmental Justice Group Rises Up Against Trump to Take Back Clean Air

Environmental and environmental justice organizations take Trump's Environmental Protection Agency to court for revoking California's vehicle emissions waiver— air quality impacts could be devastating

Huntington Park, CA- Today, Communities for A Better Environment (CBE) and ten other non-profit organizations filed a petition for review in the DC Circuit Court of Appeals requesting that the court review the Environmental Protection Agency's SAFE rule. This rule improperly revoked the Clean Air Act waiver that allows California to impose more stringent car tailpipe emission standards and administer its [Zero Emission Vehicles \(ZEV\) program](#).

"Communities near freeways already suffer from terrible air pollution, and EPA's action will make it worse," **said Katherine Hoff, attorney with CBE.** "Today we are standing up in court for communities who are under assault by an agency that is supposed to be protecting them."

[California cities are among the most polluted in the country.](#) The EPA rule prevents California from setting air standards more stringent than federal standards and rolls back California's ZEV program. California's measures ensure that there are fewer polluting cars on the road, leading to fewer emissions and less smog, especially for front line communities near freeways like those in which CBE's members live. Once the EPA rule takes effect, California will likely have more emissions and more pollution from ordinary trucks and cars ([cars and trucks are responsible for 40% of GHG emissions in California](#), of which passenger vehicles alone accounted for 28%).

"Pollution from the freeways and roads affects my family, my community, and myself. More polluting cars will make it even harder than it is now for us to breathe and live healthy lives," **said Esther Goolsby, East Oakland resident and organizer for CBE.** "I think we should be moving away from gas in cars and toward things like electric vehicles that low-income people can afford, so that people like me, who live near freeways, can have cleaner air."

Serious health impacts like reduced lung function, asthma, cardiovascular disease and premature death can develop when living or working near polluting sources like freeways. [The EPA is aware of the negative impacts](#), yet it still decided to block California's attempt to address the high level of pollution by promulgating the SAFE Rule.

Founded in 1978, **Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)** is one of the preeminent environmental justice organizations in the nation. The mission of CBE is to build people's power in California's low-income communities of color to achieve environmental health and justice by preventing and reducing pollution and building green, healthy and sustainable communities and environments.