

Governors prod Biden for all new zero-emission cars by 2035 Print



BY KELSEY TAMBORRINO | 04/21/2021 05:01 AM EDT

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan coalition of governors from a dozen states is pressing President Joe Biden to phase out new sales of gasoline and diesel powered cars and light trucks by 2035, targeting emissions from the biggest carbon dioxide-emitting segment of the U.S. economy.

Details: The governors of California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island and Washington [called on Biden on Wednesday](#) to reduce pollution from the transportation sector by setting a goal for all new cars sold in the U.S. to be zero-emission by the middle of the next decade.

"The proposed investments in the American Jobs Plan can be leveraged even further by a strong regulatory framework and will allow the market for American-made zero emissions vehicles to flourish," the governors wrote, referring to the president's recently unveiled infrastructure and jobs plan that calls for expanding electric vehicles in the U.S.

In their letter, the governors requested that the Biden administration set standards that would apply to all new passenger cars and light-duty trucks and include milestones along the way to track progress toward the 2035 target. They also call for setting standards for medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles and supporting policies — like purchase incentives and infrastructure investments — that target 100 percent zero-emission sales by 2045.

The governors asked the administration to reaffirm that states have the authority to follow California's stringent vehicle emissions standards, and they requested funding for investments to develop charging and fueling infrastructure, to drive fleet turnover to ZEVs, and to provide underserved communities equitable access to ZEVs and charging infrastructure.

The letter also calls on Biden to raise or eliminate existing limits per manufacturer in electric vehicle tax credits and to extend tax credits to sales of medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles, as well as enact new tax incentives for the manufacturing of zero-emission trucks and buses as well as charging stations.

Background: Several states have taken steps to build out their own zero-emission fleets. California Gov. Gavin Newsom, who led the letter, [signed an executive order](#) for all new cars sold in the state to be ZEVs by 2035 and transition all medium- and heavy-duty vehicles to zero emissions "where feasible" by 2045. [The state's senators previously pressed](#) Biden to set a target date by which all new cars and passenger trucks must be zero-emission.

The New York State Assembly [also passed a bill this week](#) requiring all passenger cars sold to be electric or zero-emission by 2035 and all medium- and heavy-duty vehicles be zero-emission by 2045.

Biden, who has pushed for a carbon pollution-free power sector by 2035, unveiled an infrastructure plan in March that [proposed investing hundreds of billions of dollars](#) into expanding the EV market and called for establishing programs for local and state governments and the private sector for the deployment of 500,000 new EV charging stations by 2030.

What's next: Biden will host a two-day virtual climate summit with international leaders this week, where he will highlight a new U.S. climate target. [POLITICO previously reported](#) Biden is expected to offer a range that includes a 50 percent greenhouse gas emissions cut below 2005 levels.

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