

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 1, 2016

Contact:

Matt Solomon 617-259-2029

Motor Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emissions to Keep Falling

December 1, 2016 (Boston) – Yesterday the U.S. Environmental Protection (EPA) released its Proposed Determination that the federal greenhouse gas (GHG) standards for passenger cars and trucks established for model years (MY) 2022-2025 remain appropriate. This represents an important step in EPA’s mid-term evaluation of the standards, following a comprehensive analysis described in a draft Technical Assessment Report released in July.

The findings of the Technical Assessment Report showed that manufacturers can meet the standards at a similar or lower cost than initially estimated, without relying on advanced technologies. The Report also concluded that there is potential for significant additional improvements within the timeframe considered as the market for electric vehicles grows.

The Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM)¹ commends EPA for its diligent analysis, and for correctly affirming that the standards are cost-effective and achievable. This determination will help to ensure continued progress in reducing GHG emissions from the passenger car and light truck fleet, with commensurate fuel savings for consumers. We note, however, that EPA’s own analysis showed the potential for even greater reductions in emissions. Given the serious challenges our states face in meeting their medium- and long-term GHG reduction goals, and considering that technologies are available today to provide greater improvements than called for in the regulation, we will continue to look for opportunities to encourage the deployment of ever-more efficient vehicles.

“While this proposed determination is good news, the science tells us we need to do more to meet our long-term climate goals and the technology exists to do so,” stated NESCAUM’s Executive Director, Arthur Marin.

This action by EPA underscores the continued importance of state Zero-Emission Vehicle programs, such as those in place in California and most of the NESCAUM states, in continuing to push technologies to drive down emissions from the passenger fleet. The Technical Assessment Report illustrates the potential for advanced technologies such as plug-in hybrid and battery-electric drivetrains to provide substantial additional reductions in GHG emissions and

¹ NESCAUM is a nonprofit association of air quality agencies in the Northeast. Its Board of Directors consists of the air directors of the six New England states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont), New Jersey, and New York. NESCAUM provides scientific, technical, analytical, and policy support to the air quality and climate programs of the eight northeast states, including assistance with the implementation of national environmental programs required under the Clean Air Act and other federal legislation.

fuel consumption. As more of these advanced vehicles enter the fleet, drivers will benefit from lower operating costs, and a far greater share of consumers' spending on transportation will remain within local economies.

Said Mr. Marin, "This determination will ensure continued progress toward meeting science-based greenhouse gas reductions and lowering costs for drivers across the United States."

###