



Vote to Upgrade CAFE:
Protect Safety, Jobs, and Consumer Choice

SAFETY AND FUEL ECONOMY ARE COMPATIBLE

CAFE Fallacy

The National Academy of Sciences found that in the past, downsizing and downweighting to meet CAFE standards may have resulted in a net increase of deaths and injuries. Therefore, raising CAFE standards in the future will result in needless deaths and injuries.

CAFE Candor

Improving CAFE need not detract from vehicle safety. Finding 13, of the NAS report reads: [A]ny adverse safety impact could be minimized, or even reversed, if weight and size reductions were limited to heavier vehicles (≤ 4000 lbs). Larger vehicles would be less damaging... and thus pose less risk to other drivers on the road.

Automobile safety is primarily a function of vehicle design, not weight. For example, drivers of the Honda Accord (3049 lbs.) and drivers of the Ford Expedition SUV (5686 lbs.) face comparable fatality risks. After studying real-world crash data, experts Marc Ross and Tom Wenzel, from the University of Michigan, concluded that a vehicle's safety is more closely correlated with the quality of design than with weight.

CAFE CREATES JOBS

CAFE Fallacy

Gains in fuel economy come only at the expense of jobs.

CAFE Candor

A macroeconomic analysis by the Union of Concerned Scientists shows that improvements in fuel economy could create 182,700 new jobs in construction, automobile, service, retail and other industries.

CAFE WOULD IMPROVE THE RANGE OF CONSUMER CHOICE

CAFE Fallacy

Car companies can only meet higher CAFE standards by limiting the production of the light trucks, minivans, and SUVs that Americans need to carry children and cargo. Raising CAFE standards limits consumer choice.

CAFE Candor

Historically, CAFE fostered the invention of new vehicles and efficiency systems and expanded consumer choice beyond the car dominated market of the 1970s to include a variety of passenger and utility vehicles. CAFE doesn't limit consumer choice—in fact, it encourages automotive innovation.

Fuel Economy is a Market Driver

CAFE Fallacy

Fuel efficient vehicles represent less than 2 percent of vehicle sales. Therefore, Americans don't care about fuel economy.

CAFE Candor

According to J.D. Power and Assoc., the second most common driver complaint industry-wide is excessive fuel consumption. Americans want improved fuel efficiency in their cars and trucks—Detroit, however, chooses to ignore this growing demand and limit fuel economy choices.