

Dear Bill Ford,

We, the undersigned professionals dedicated to safeguarding and improving public health, write to urge you to tackle the climate crisis as a top priority for Ford Motor Company and support the Clean Car Standards.

Global warming is threatening the health of Americans across the country, by increasing the number of days with extreme heat and bad air quality and placing vulnerable citizens at risk. Heat-related illnesses, asthma, and respiratory diseases are on the rise.

We ask you to move forwards, not backwards. With transportation emissions the new top source of climate pollution in this country, you have the power to dramatically cut the greenhouse gas pollution fueling this crisis. We urge you to shift to 100% zero emission vehicles as soon as possible.

We also urge you to support this country's best climate program, the Clean Car Standards. When fully implemented, the existing standards are set to save 6 billion metric tons of dangerous global warming pollution and cut our oil use by 12 billion barrels. Weakening theses standards in any way would be a mistake.

As doctors, nurses, medical researchers, and others employed in the health and public health fields, we understand the clear connection between preventing the worst impacts of climate change and human health. None of us want to leave the next generation with epidemics of asthma and respiratory illnesses, heat strokes, and dangerous insect and waterborne diseases. But that's exactly what climate change is causing today, and it will only get worse unless we act now to drastically cut the pollution fueling the problem.

The risks climate change poses to public health have been well-documented. According to the 2016 *Climate and Health Assessment*—a project of more than 100 public health experts and climate scientists—climate change poses a significant health risk to every American. For everyone from the young to the elderly, climate change will exacerbate current health threats and create new challenges.

Health damages outlined in the assessment include but are not limited to:

- 1. Air pollution and airborne allergens will likely increase, worsening allergy and asthma conditions.
- 2. Extreme heat will increase the number of premature deaths, from thousands to tens of thousands each summer.
- 3. Extreme weather and other events related to climate change will exacerbate underlying medical conditions and increase exposure to foodborne and waterborne illness risks.

¹ USGCRP, 2016: *The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment*. Crimmins, A., J. Balbus, J.L. Gamble, C.B. Beard, J.E. Bell, D. Dodgen, R.J. Eisen, N. Fann, M.D. Hawkins, S.C. Herring, L. Jantarasami, D.M. Mills, S. Saha, M.C. Sarofim, J. Trtanj, and L. Ziska, Eds. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, 312 pp. http://dx.doi.org/10.7930/J0R49NQX

- 4. Worsening storms and wildfires will disrupt infrastructure, including power, water, transportation, and communication systems that are essential to maintaining access to health care and emergency response services and safeguarding human health.
- 5. Climate change will have the largest health impact on vulnerable populations, including those with low incomes, some communities of color, limited English proficiency and immigrant groups, Indigenous peoples, children, pregnant women, older adults, vulnerable occupational groups, persons with disabilities, and persons with preexisting or chronic medical conditions such as asthma and respiratory disease.²

Ford plays a key role in stopping the impacts of climate change and building a healthy future. Combustion engines and the burning of fossil fuels now cause the majority of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. By producing 100% clean cars, you will reduce carbon pollution and limit the health and environmental impacts of climate change.

We ask Ford to support the strongest possible fuel economy and greenhouse gas standards for automobiles, while encouraging policies and incentives for zero emissions vehicles to fully transition our transportation sector to zero-carbon pollution.

We are doing our part to safeguard the health of our communities. You can do the same by moving our country to a clean energy future and phasing out the use of dirty fossil fuels as quickly as possible. We want to do all we can to protect current and future generations from climate change. We want to leave behind a legacy we're proud of, and we know you do too.

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