

Automakers question Calif. emission rules

by UPI

LOS ANGELES - California and 13 other U.S. states shouldn't be allowed to create emission standards outside of Environmental Protection Agency standards, automakers say.

Both automakers and auto dealers have questioned California's request to EPA officials to allow the 14 states to set independent emission standards instead of following a nationwide standard, the Los Angeles Times said Friday.

California officials have maintained they would only accept a national standard that equaled their strict regulations on vehicles' greenhouse gas emissions.

The auto industry is mired in a legal battle with those state officials over an emissions regulation California passed this decade under the Clear Air Act.

While former U.S. President George W. Bush's administration opposed California's EPA request for independent standards, U.S. President Barack Obama has told the federal department to reconsider the subject.

The Times said California officials did say during a related hearing Thursday that automakers are making noticeable strides toward meeting the state's higher emissions standards.

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