



NCEL Alert - Renewed State Leadership on Energy and the Environment

Following the Administration's recent [executive orders](#) ending programs such as the Clean Power Plan and Clean Water Rule, and weakening environmental and conservation regulations like the CAFE auto efficiency standards, states are pursuing legislation to safeguard and strengthen existing protections. Many of these are designed specifically to fill the gaps being left by the federal government.

NCEL staff are tracking state efforts to maintain environmental protections and are compiling a database of relevant legislation, news articles, and events. We encourage you to contact us with other examples of proposed state legislation to hold the line on current environmental regulations being abandoned by the federal government.

Here are a number of initiatives from around the country:

- **Arizona Rep. Kirsten Engel** introduced [legislation](#) for the state to comply with the emissions targets determined by the Clean Power Plan, even if the plan is withdrawn.
 - **California Legislators** have proposed legislation that cements existing federal air, water, and endangered species standards into state law, [enshrining pre-2017 levels of protection](#) in California regardless of any reversal at the federal level.
 - **The Vermont House of Representatives** has approved [H411](#), a bill that would adopt all federal energy efficiency standards that exist as of Jan. 2017 in Vermont if Congress passes a bill that would weaken them.
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