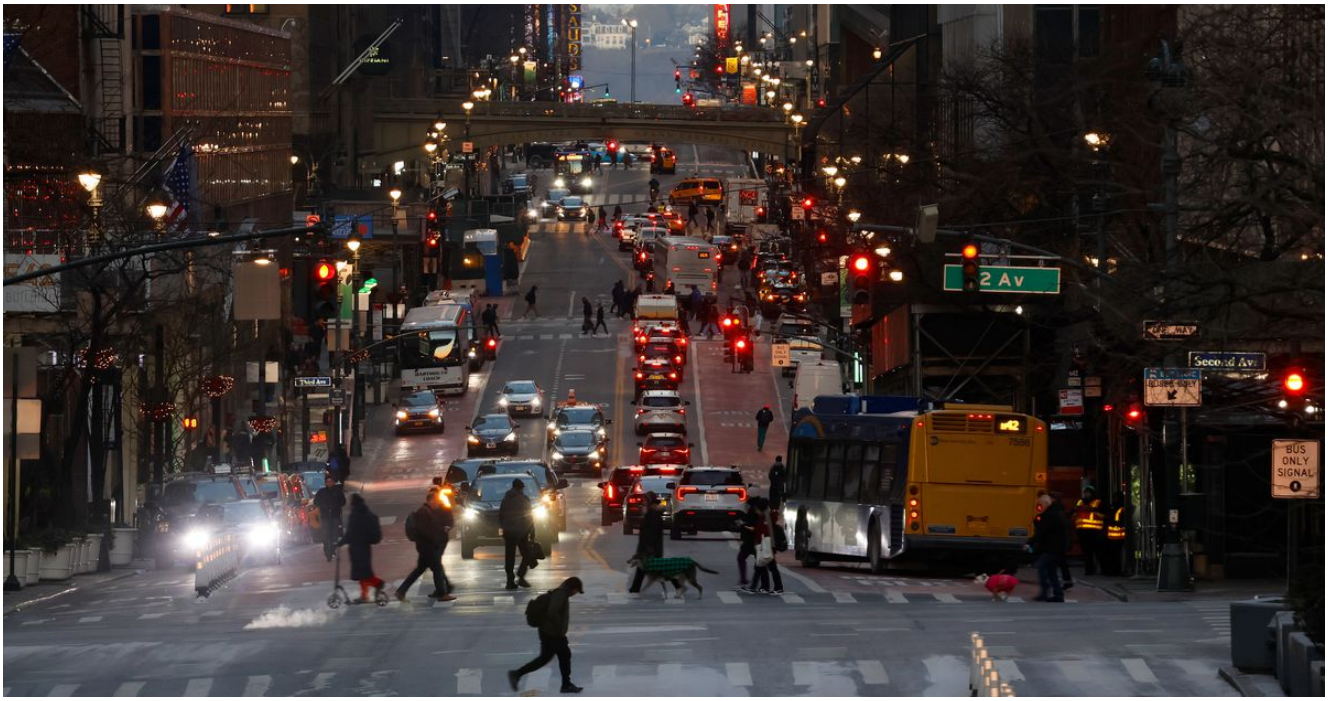
Automakers sue to block Biden’s ‘flawed’ automatic emergency braking rule



A new rule requiring all vehicles to have automatic emergency braking is “flawed” and should be repealed, a new lawsuit filed by the auto industry’s main lobbying group says.

The suit was filed in US Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit by the Alliance of Automotive Innovation, which represents most of the major automakers, including Ford, General Motors, Stellantis, Hyundai, Volkswagen, and Toyota. The group is asking the court to overturn the new rule, which was finalized last year, requiring all vehicles to have automatic emergency braking (AEB) by 2029.

But after the rule was finalized, the alliance petitioned NHTSA to “reconsider” it, arguing that current technology was insufficient to meet the high standards outlined by the regulation. The group also claimed that its suggestions were rejected during the rulemaking process, and urged NHTSA to reconsider several key provisions in order to make it more

achievable by the target date.

But NHTSA denied the group's petition, stating that the requirements were "practicable" and that the overall aim is to "force" the industry to adopt new technology in order to meet the goals of saving lives and preventing injuries.

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"NHTSA acknowledged that the final rule is technology-forcing," the agency said in its response, "but emphasized that the standard is practicable and no single current vehicle must meet every requirement for an FMVSS to be considered practicable under the Safety Act."

The auto alliance says that it has spent "more than a billion dollars" developing AEB over the years, but doesn't want this lawsuit to be seen as undermining its own technology. And it says it much prefers the "voluntary agreement" that preceded the mandate.

"This litigation by Alliance for Automotive Innovation *should not* be interpreted as opposition to AEB, a lack of confidence in the technology, or an objection to AEB's widest possible deployment across the U.S. vehicle fleet," the group says in a press release. "Rather, this litigation is about ensuring a rule that maximizes driver and pedestrian safety and is technologically feasible."

But consumer and safety advocates aren't buying it.

"The AEB Rule is the most impactful regulation for roadway safety issued in years," said Cathy Chase, president of Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, in a statement. "Considering that automaking is America's largest manufacturing sector, employs 10 million Americans, generates five percent of the U.S. GDP and drives $1 trillion into the economy annually, it is remarkable that it would be unable to meet the requirements in the AEB Rule by September 2029."

And William Wallace, *Consumer Report*'s director of safety advocacy, said, "It is profoundly disappointing that automakers are suing to block this lifesaving automatic emergency braking rule. Car companies have brought impressive safety technology to our roads, but AEB performance among new vehicle models is uneven. This rule is needed because everyone on our roads should be able to benefit from automatic emergency braking systems that meet reasonable minimum standards."

https://www.theverge.com/2025/1/17/24346136/automatic-emergency-braking-lawsuit-auto-industry-repeal