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Obama makes Fla. auto emission plan unnecessary

The Associated Press

The fight over tougher auto exhaust regulations in Florida will become a moot issue if President Barack Obama's proposal for new federal standards is approved.

The plan Obama announced Tuesday combines stricter emission standards with higher fuel mileage requirements.

Gov. Charlie Crist wanted Florida to adopt California's tougher emission rules for new cars, but he couldn't get that proposal through the Legislature controlled by his fellow Republicans.

Crist's support, though, helped put pressure on the federal government to enact national standards, said Audubon of Florida lobbyist Eric Draper. He called Obama's announcement "a historic moment for climate change and for the fight to save the planet."

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