SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED) SIAIES
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DIAMOND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY, LLC, ET AL.,)
Petitioners,)
v.) No. 24-7
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, ET AL.,)
Respondents.)

Pages: 1 through 70

Place: Washington, D.C.

Date: April 23, 2025

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8	
9	
10	Washington, D.C.
11	Wednesday, April 23, 2025
12	
13	The above-entitled matter came on for
14	oral argument before the Supreme Court of the
15	United States at 10:04 a.m.
16	
17	APPEARANCES:
18	JEFFREY B. WALL, ESQUIRE, Washington, D.C.; on behalf
19	of the Petitioners.
20	EDWIN S. KNEEDLER, Deputy Solicitor General,
21	Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.; on behalf
22	of the Federal Respondents.
23	JOSHUA A. KLEIN, Deputy Solicitor General, Oakland,
24	California; on behalf of the State Respondents.
25	

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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(10:04 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We will hear
4	argument this morning in Case 24-7, Diamond
5	Alternative Energy versus the Environmental
6	Protection Agency.
7	Mr. Wall.
8	ORAL ARGUMENT OF JEFFREY B. WALL
9	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS
10	MR. WALL: Mr. Chief Justice, and may
11	it please the Court:
12	The EPA waiver here allows California
13	to limit the number of vehicles that run on
14	liquid fuel. Petitioners make and sell liquid
15	fuel, so vacating the waiver would redress their
16	injuries in two ways.
17	First, as Justice Kavanaugh explained
18	in Energy Future Coalition, part of the injury
19	in a case like this one is the denial even to
20	compete in the marketplace. Vacating the waiver
21	redresses that injury perfectly. Indeed, it's
22	the only thing that can.
23	Second, even setting aside that clear
24	rule, this Court recognized in Department of
25	Commerce that litigants may rely on common-sense

- 1 inferences about third-party behavior. It
- 2 doesn't take much common sense to figure out
- 3 that if California limits the number of cars
- 4 that can run on gas, automakers will make fewer
- 5 cars that run on gas.
- Remember that we're here because
- 7 California asked for and EPA granted a waiver
- 8 because California said it needs its own
- 9 standards. California even intervened by
- 10 telling the court below that its standards are
- 11 likely to reduce fuel consumption. The
- 12 common-sense inference is that this waiver
- 13 matters in the real world, not that it is
- 14 completely meaningless.
- But, if we needed hard evidence, we
- 16 had plenty of it, five kinds: one, our
- 17 declarations showing that California's standards
- have historically harmed us; two, California's
- 19 and EPA's actions and statements in 2021 and
- 20 2022 saying that their standards are likely to
- 21 reduce fuel consumption; three, California's two
- 22 expert declarations from CARB officials in 2022
- 23 saying that their standards are likely to
- 24 decrease fuel consumption; four, the intervening
- automakers' admission that, without the waiver,

- 1 some of their competitors were likely to back
- 2 away from electrification; and, fifth, Toyota's
- 3 comment and public reporting also indicating
- 4 that some automakers would back away from
- 5 electrification without the waiver. Taken
- 6 together, that is more than enough evidence to
- 7 establish redressability.
- I welcome the Court's questions.
- 9 JUSTICE THOMAS: Mr. Wall, taking a
- 10 step away -- back from the evidence you just
- 11 provided or the points you just made, what is
- 12 your rule? How would you articulate --
- 13 articulate your categorical rule?
- MR. WALL: Our rule is that when the
- government denies a party the ability to compete
- in a marketplace and the party sues to have that
- 17 market restriction lifted, there is
- 18 redressability because the party is asking for
- 19 the thing to be taken away that's causing its
- 20 injury.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: Is there some degree
- of hindrance to that party that has to be shown
- 23 to apply your rule?
- 24 MR. WALL: I don't think so because
- 25 we're not talking about just sort of some

- 1 indirect impediment. I'm talking about a market
- 2 restriction that directly tilts or forecloses
- 3 the playing field. It says you can't sell your
- 4 product, your good, your service into a
- 5 particular market either wholly or, here,
- 6 partially, up to some certain cap.
- 7 JUSTICE THOMAS: So how would you show
- 8 that?
- 9 MR. WALL: Well, what I'd say is it --
- it's -- you show it by the nature of the injury.
- 11 So just like in a competitor standing case, like
- in National Credit Union, if you come in and you
- say the government is under-regulating one of my
- 14 competitors, right, this Court said that's
- 15 competitor standing. Government agrees with
- 16 that. That's Footnote 2 of their brief.
- 17 This is the same thing. It's just
- 18 that instead of picking winning and -- winners
- 19 and losers among particular market participants,
- 20 you're picking winners and losers as among
- 21 markets. So, if you come in and you say I have
- 22 something that yesterday I could freely sell and
- 23 today I cannot freely sell it as a result of a
- 24 government regulation that directly forecloses
- 25 me, you have standing on our view.

Т	JUSTICE JACKSON: So, Mr. Wall, now
2	how is that consistent with the Court's holding
3	in Warth versus Seldin?
4	I know you talk about it briefly in
5	one of your footnotes, but that seems to me to
6	map on exactly with what you're now saying.
7	There was an exclusionary zoning restriction
8	that prevented home builders and others from
9	building in a particular area, and the Court
10	found that that was not sufficient for
11	redressability.
12	MR. WALL: So the Court looked at it
13	more as a sort of predictable effects-type case
14	and said, well, we actually think it's very
15	speculative whether you could get into the
16	neighborhood at all. And so the Court saw that
17	case through a very different lens, and, of
18	course, nobody was there on
19	JUSTICE JACKSON: But I guess that
20	I I I guess I'm questioning whether or not
21	it really is a different lens. I mean, the
22	Court said, if you're right that the rule is
23	just a common sense you don't really have to
24	have evidence, we just sort of infer based on
25	the relationshing in the markethlage and

- 1 whatnot, that's exactly what was happening
- there. The home builders said we aren't going
- 3 to be able to build our houses, our
- 4 single-family homes, in this zoned-off area.
- 5 And so we said, I think, when you look
- 6 at the case, that there's got to be evidence
- 7 that there actually would be home building in
- 8 this area absent that regulation. And I think
- 9 that's the same thing as saying here that you
- 10 can't just rely on the fact that we would think
- 11 that lifting this restriction would allow for
- more cars to be built. There actually has to be
- evidence that there would be more cars built,
- 14 you know, fuel-ingesting cars, in this
- 15 environment.
- 16 MR. WALL: So, Justice Jackson, what
- 17 I'd say is the Court has sort of two lines of
- 18 cases, and that's why we've made two arguments,
- 19 because we think we win under both lines.
- 20 You have some sets of cases, like the
- 21 equal protection cases or the competitor
- 22 standing cases, where you say that the nature of
- 23 the injury gives you causation or
- 24 redressability. It's the ability not -- you're
- denied the ability to compete in the

- 1 marketplace. You're discriminated against no
- 2 matter what would happen in the marketplace
- 3 itself.
- 4 And then you have certain lines of
- 5 cases, like Department of Commerce or Warth
- 6 v. Seldin, where you say, look, we're going to
- 7 look at what the likely predictable effects are
- 8 in the market and if you show --
- 9 JUSTICE JACKSON: And what
- 10 distinguishes the two? Is it that we have
- 11 corporations in one, that we have -- like,
- 12 what -- how would we know which line we're
- 13 supposed to apply in this situation?
- MR. WALL: I think it depends on
- 15 whether the Court believes that the nature of
- the injury gives you causation and
- 17 redressability. So, as I understand the
- 18 competitor standing cases, and I think they're
- 19 correctly decided, if I'm in a market and I
- 20 allege or show that I am competing with, you
- 21 know, Mr. Klein in a market, and the government
- 22 comes in and tilts the playing field toward
- 23 Mr. Klein, I have standing because, by
- 24 definition, the nature of the injury is that the
- 25 government tilted the playing field and I have

- 1 redressability because I want the playing field
- 2 to be level again. That's what I'm asking for.
- And we see our case as exactly the
- 4 same. We're -- and -- and -- and I
- 5 think the D.C. Circuit got this exactly right
- 6 when --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I -- I'm sorry,
- 8 though, because I think what Justice Jackson may
- 9 be getting to is you want us to announce an
- 10 absolutist rule, which, in the standing area, is
- 11 very difficult to do because it really does rely
- 12 so much on facts.
- 13 You've marshaled many facts to support
- 14 your standing. In this case, the D.C. Circuit
- thought erroneously -- it's been conceded by the
- 16 government -- that this regulation would expire
- in 2025. So let's assume you came in a month
- 18 before the expiration and that the rule was
- 19 never going to be renewed, okay? Why would you
- 20 have standing?
- 21 Under your rule, merely because the --
- 22 the -- the barrier exists, you have standing.
- 23 But what the court here said is you might have
- standing, but you don't have redressability
- 25 because the manufacturers can't change their

- 1 production right now. And this rule expires.
- 2 They made a mistake on that. It's conceded.
- 3 So isn't the issue whether the -- the
- 4 confluence of all the facts you put forth show
- 5 that this is more like the D.C. Circuit case
- 6 that Justice Kavanaugh relied upon or more like
- 7 the Chamber of Commerce versus EPA case, where
- 8 he said that the affidavits back and forth
- 9 showed that that particular set of claimants
- 10 wouldn't really be successful in selling their
- 11 products?
- 12 So why isn't it always a factual
- 13 dispute?
- MR. WALL: So here's the importance of
- the rule, Justice Sotomayor. Here's why you
- 16 need one, and here's why I think the D.C.
- 17 Circuit was right to adopt one in Energy Future
- 18 Coalition.
- The importance of the rule is that
- 20 absent the rule, if you walk in and you put a
- 21 market restriction on at a time when you think
- 22 the restriction doesn't matter or at least you
- 23 can debate whether it matters, then the other
- 24 side will always say: A-ha, you don't have
- 25 predictable effects. You can't satisfy

- 1 Department of Commerce. You can't satisfy
- 2 Warth.
- And, here, it's even worse than that.
- 4 There is a 60-day time limit.
- 5 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: What you want then
- 6 is an advisory opinion. And at a certain point,
- 7 we move from giving -- giving you relief or not,
- 8 but that's not this case.
- 9 MR. WALL: Justice Sotomayor, I want
- 10 to be very clear.
- 11 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Why would we
- 12 announce a rule that's not pertinent to this
- 13 case?
- MR. WALL: I do not want an advisory
- 15 opinion. They now acknowledge --
- 16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So they now
- acknowledge that they were wrong. They'll have
- 18 to answer as to why they're even defending the
- 19 rule if it has no effect, which is my logical
- 20 question. If it doesn't affect the market, why
- 21 have the rule at all? But we can go -- let them
- 22 answer that.
- MR. WALL: I -- I look forward to
- 24 hearing them do it. But I just -- I want to say
- 25 quickly, in this case, everybody now

- 1 acknowledges the greenhouse-gas standards
- 2 persist into the future indefinitely if nothing
- 3 changes from now to the end of time.
- 4 Absent a rule, they can come in and
- 5 say: The market is exceeding our standards
- 6 right now. You can't show that any automaker
- 7 will do anything. There's a 60-day time bar in
- 8 the statute. If we can't sue when we sued,
- 9 we're out of luck forever.
- The advantage of our rule is that it
- 11 matches up with the injury perfectly, and it
- makes sure that in the future, if the price of
- electricity goes up or the availability of rare
- 14 earth minerals for batteries changes, we can
- 15 affect the market.
- 16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Let's assume that
- 17 they had affidavits from every single car
- 18 manufacturer. This is like Chamber of Commerce
- 19 versus EPA. Every car manufacturer, every
- 20 single one of them, says: Can't change it,
- 21 won't change it.
- Do you still win? Can't change it,
- won't change it. You're the fuel people, but
- it's not going to affect you because they're
- 25 going to follow it no matter what.

- 1 MR. WALL: Yes, we do. The evidence
- 2 here is actually to the contrary, pages 99 to
- 3 211.
- 4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, but that's
- 5 the point.
- 6 MR. WALL: But I -- I take the point.
- 7 Yes, because the question isn't what are
- 8 automakers doing today when we get locked out of
- 9 the market. It's, yes, we have a pocketbook
- injury, we believe, but we have an injury that
- 11 occurs even earlier than that.
- We are denied the ability to go out
- and compete in the marketplace, to convince
- 14 automakers that they shouldn't be making as many
- 15 electric vehicles. They should be making more
- 16 vehicles that run on liquid fuel. And the
- 17 government has foreclosed us from doing that.
- 18 And it's no different than the
- 19 examples we give in our brief.
- 20 JUSTICE BARRETT: What if, in Justice
- 21 Sotomayor's example, the manufacturers stand
- 22 with, you know, the California regulators and
- 23 with EPA on the very first day the regulation is
- 24 rolled out and say: We support this. You know,
- 25 we want a greener earth, we want to prevent

- 1 climate change, and this is going to be cheaper
- 2 for our business anyway.
- 3 So there's no question of a time lag.
- 4 You know, they're just fully onboard and so kind
- of as Justice Sotomayor's hypothetical was
- 6 saying, but I want to imagine it happens on day
- 7 one. Why should you have standing and
- 8 redressability at that point?
- 9 MR. WALL: Because it seems to me,
- 10 Justice Barrett -- let's assume just for a
- 11 moment that -- that it's unlawful but that the
- 12 entire industry buys in. They cut a deal with
- 13 California. They accept the standards, they
- want to abide by them, and they all agree and
- 15 they want to lock in the demand and force
- 16 consumers that way because they think it'll be
- 17 profitable for the auto-making industry.
- We still are harmed in a direct way.
- 19 The government has tilted the playing field and
- 20 foreclosed us from being able to freely sell our
- 21 product. And we -- we ought to be able to make
- 22 our arguments on the merits and get our day in
- 23 court regardless of whether the directly
- 24 regulated industry cuts a deal or not.
- We have an injury. We have been

- 1 locked out of a marketplace. That injures us
- 2 financially. It's caused by the regulation. I
- 3 don't take anybody to be disputing that.
- 4 So the only question is
- 5 redressability, and that should be easy in a
- 6 case like this one. If everybody grants that
- 7 the regulation is causing your injury, vacating
- 8 the regulation or California's standards that --
- 9 that they're allowed to adopt redresses the
- 10 injury.
- 11 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, in light of all
- that, why do you think you need a special rule?
- 13 Why -- why isn't the -- in the situation that's
- 14 present here and in others like it, there's a
- strong inference that this is likely to have an
- 16 effect.
- 17 Now maybe there could be situations in
- 18 which, by the submission of affidavits like the
- ones that have been discussed or statements by
- all the carmakers, it could be shown that, no,
- 21 contrary to what one would normally think, this
- is not going to have any effect, in which case
- 23 you -- you might lose on standing. But I'm not
- sure why you think you need a special rule in
- 25 this situation.

- 1 MR. WALL: Justice Alito, I don't want
- 2 to fight it too hard. If the Court says: Look,
- 3 you had far more here than we had before us in
- 4 Department of Commerce, you can have a
- 5 common-sense inference, it's predictable under
- 6 Department of Commerce --
- 7 JUSTICE ALITO: There are many
- 8 situations in which standing depends on a
- 9 probabilistic inquiry, and those are very
- 10 fact-specific. So, you know, you'd ask: What
- 11 is the -- what is the probability in a
- 12 particular situation?
- 13 When someone says I'm threatened
- 14 with -- you know, I expect that this will harm
- me, we assess the -- the -- the degree of
- 16 the risk.
- 17 MR. WALL: So I'll take -- I'll say
- 18 two things, Justice Alito.
- 19 First, what I'm worried about is that
- we've been ping-ponged around for going on 15
- 21 years, trying to get a determination on the
- 22 merits. And if we get sent back for a
- 23 predictable effects analysis or all the rest in
- this and future cases, I worry about where we
- end up.

1 But, second, and -- and I -- more 2 logically doctrinally, in the competitor 3 standing cases, the Court doesn't say: Well, if we leveled the playing field, would the 4 customers that you seek to compete for fairly 5 6 come to you rather than the other guy? 7 And I think that's the wrong -- I think that would be the wrong way to look at 8 9 those cases. 10 Your injury isn't just what happens in 11 the marketplace when you are allowed to compete 12 and you think some dollars are taken out of your pocket. You don't really know because the point 13 14 is you've been locked out of the marketplace. 15 And that's why I think the rule is 16 important. I think it's the same logic here as 17 in the competitor standing cases. And it's not 18 like the Court doesn't do that in other areas. 19 California is here saying: If we are 20 prevented from enforcing our standards -- and 21 this Court said it many times -- that is injury, 2.2 indeed, irreparable injury, to the state. 23 Without knowing what it will do under the statutes, whether it will work, whether we'll 24 25 get a penalty or a conviction, the Court often

- 1 says: If the sovereign doesn't get to enforce
- 2 its statute, that is injury, and the state's got
- 3 standing to come in regardless.
- 4 JUSTICE ALITO: I would think that
- 5 you -- you would have injury in fact under our
- 6 cases if the effect of this is to cause your
- 7 clients to be unable to sell one car. Wouldn't
- 8 that be correct?
- 9 MR. WALL: Well, sell one gallon of
- 10 liquid fuel. Yes.
- 11 JUSTICE ALITO: I'm sorry, one gallon
- 12 of liquid fuel.
- MR. WALL: Yes, that's true.
- JUSTICE ALITO: So that doesn't seem
- 15 like very much to have to show.
- 16 MR. WALL: Justice Alito, I agree, but
- 17 that's what makes the case so odd.
- The court of appeals said: All right,
- we're not going to contest that there's injury
- 20 in fact and causation. We're not going to say
- 21 there is, but we're not going to say there
- isn't. We're going to assume that you've got
- injury in fact that you sell one gallon less of
- 24 gasoline, and we're going to assume it's caused
- 25 by the regulation. But we think you haven't

- 1 shown redressability.
- 2 JUSTICE KAGAN: But I think that the
- 3 reason for that was a combination of two things.
- 4 One was what Justice Sotomayor said,
- 5 that they were -- that they were mistaken about
- 6 the end date of the regulation. The other, you
- 7 know, honestly, was that you didn't put on much
- 8 evidence.
- 9 You know, and here, too, your sort of
- 10 common-sense inference, it is a common-sense
- inference, but if it's such a common-sense
- inference, it should be easy to put on evidence.
- 13 And -- and, here, there wasn't a lot of it.
- MR. WALL: So, Justice Kagan, I don't
- think that's fair. We had an on-point decision
- 16 from the D.C. Circuit dealing with this very
- industry, fuel producers. We had our own
- 18 declarations. We had California's expert
- declarations filed after we brought this case.
- 20 So, when California intervened, if you
- look at pages 110 and 115 of the JA, California
- 22 put in declarations from two CARB experts, and
- in both of them, their own experts -- these are
- 24 not statements in the brief --
- 25 JUSTICE KAGAN: I -- I agree with you.

- 1 I think it would be easy to read those
- 2 declarations back to California and say: What
- 3 do you make of those? But -- but your side
- 4 didn't really make that argument.
- 5 MR. WALL: Well, we pointed to our
- 6 declarations. We pointed to California's
- 7 statement in 2021, at page 66 of the JA, saying
- 8 these standards are critical -- their word -- to
- 9 reducing fuel consumption. We pointed to EPA's
- 10 statements in adopting the waiver saying they
- 11 need their own standards.
- We pointed to the intervenor
- 13 automakers' admission saying: Hey, we've
- invested a lot in electrification. If you don't
- make them meet the same standard, we might be at
- 16 a "competitive disadvantage."
- 17 And I guess my point back, Justice
- 18 Kagan, is, look, if --
- 19 JUSTICE KAGAN: I think my point to
- you is, surely, if that's all in the record, you
- 21 deserve to go forward.
- MR. WALL: Oh, I agree. I -- I --
- 23 I -- I agree.
- 24 JUSTICE JACKSON: So then why do we
- 25 need the rule? Why do we need a bright-line

2.2

- 1 rule if you satisfy the regular evidence
- 2 standard?
- 3 MR. WALL: First, because I think it's
- 4 logically the correct inquiry. It's not what
- 5 happens in the market. It is, as Justice
- 6 Kavanaugh said in Energy Future Coalition, your
- 7 inability to get into the marketplace in the
- 8 first instance. That's a key part of the
- 9 injury, and not adopting the rule misses that
- 10 part. But even --
- 11 JUSTICE JACKSON: But I thought
- 12 your -- I thought the point of the rule was that
- 13 you didn't want to have to provide the evidence,
- 14 that -- that -- that you say: Yes, we have the
- 15 evidence, but we don't need it because, under
- this rule that I'd like for you to adopt, we
- 17 have redressability.
- 18 MR. WALL: I don't think that evidence
- is relevant for the same reason it's not in
- 20 competitor standing cases. But, if the Court
- 21 disagrees on our rule, I agree, we should win on
- 22 a standard Department of Commerce, what is the
- 23 likely effect here.
- And we put in far more evidence than
- you would typically see in a case like this.

- 1 And with all respect to the court below, we got
- 2 dinged not because we didn't do enough. Any
- 3 lawyer looking at what we had done at the time
- 4 would have said we had redressability. We got
- 5 dinged, in fairness, because the court below
- 6 moved the goalposts. We had Energy Future
- 7 Coalition and plenty of evidence to satisfy it,
- 8 and the court below, without citing any --
- 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: That is really
- 10 unfair, Mr. Wall. They were under a mistaken
- 11 understanding, partly because of the submissions
- in this case where you were just complaining in
- your papers about this rule being in effect only
- 14 until 2025.
- MR. WALL: So, Justice Sotomayor, that
- is part of the mistake that the court of appeals
- 17 made, but its error was more fundamental. When
- it looked at standing, it should have said: We
- 19 have Energy Future Coalition. It tells us that
- we have redressability in the same industry,
- 21 fuel producers, if the regulation locks them out
- of the marketplace.
- 23 It didn't say that. It turned to the
- 24 evidence, and then, rather than on the evidence
- 25 saying, well, this is more than enough to

- 1 satisfy cases like Department of Commerce or
- 2 Alliance of Hippocratic Medicine, it -- it said,
- 3 ah, not enough here.
- 4 And what that really amounts to at the
- 5 end of the day is we couldn't get an affidavit
- 6 from an automaker who didn't intervene. They
- 7 sat on the sidelines. They didn't want to
- 8 participate. And because we couldn't get them
- 9 to stick their hand up, we couldn't -- we didn't
- 10 have someone saying here is how I will change my
- 11 fleet absent the waiver. And that's what we
- 12 didn't have.
- 13 And if that's what it's really going
- 14 to take for an indirectly regulated party to get
- into court, it's going to be far more difficult
- to challenge governmental action, and these
- 17 cases are going to become more expensive and,
- 18 frankly, arbitrary, because it will turn on
- whether the directly regulated industry likes
- 20 the rule or they don't. And as far as my
- 21 clients are concerned, that shouldn't matter one
- 22 whit.
- JUSTICE BARRETT: Why will you be
- 24 ping-ponged around? It -- you know, you want
- 25 the categorical rule. Imagine that I am not

- 1 sympathetic to the categorical rule but think
- 2 that your clients could demonstrate standing
- 3 based on the common-sense inferences.
- 4 You said that you've been pinged --
- 5 ping-ponged around for 15 years and so that's
- 6 why you want the categorical -- categorical
- 7 rule. But, if we just said you had standing,
- 8 how can you be ping-ponged around?
- 9 MR. WALL: Oh, if -- if this Court
- declares that there's a common-sense inference
- and applies Department of Commerce and says they
- met it here, you are right, we should be able
- 13 then to get a determination on the merits.
- 14 And -- and, as I say, I think the rule is right,
- but on either of those views, as long as the
- 16 Court says what we say about Department of
- 17 Commerce, you are right, we would be able to get
- a determination on the merits, which we've been
- 19 trying to do for a very long time.
- 20 JUSTICE BARRETT: So why do you care
- 21 as between the -- on that view of the world, why
- 22 would you care, other than you want to go for
- 23 the big win --
- 24 MR. WALL: It -- it's --
- 25 JUSTICE BARRETT: -- as between them?

MR. WALL: The win is the same either 1 2 I think the rule is right. I think it way. 3 squares with the competitor standing cases. I think the logic of it is right. 4 The injury here is not just what 5 6 happens out there in the marketplace. We are 7 prevented from getting in at all. And my concern, Justice Barrett, is that if you don't 8 9 adopt the rule, it will always be an argument 10 about what will happen in the marketplace. 11 that's very difficult to show once you have a 12 governmental mandate because the governmental 13 regulation is skewing the entire market. 14 And so, as here, even though, in the 15 real world, everyone knows that California's 16 standards have affected automakers, we have a 17 whole debate now about whether, in fact, as a 18 matter of common sense, they actually affected 19 people, and even if they were affecting them in 20 2019, well, did things change in 2020 and 2021 21 in a way that by the time you sued in 2022, you 2.2 might have had standing before but now you no 23 longer do? Yes, I think we're right about that 24 25 debate, but I don't think we should have to have

- 1 it in every case.
- 2 JUSTICE JACKSON: Can I understand the
- 3 rule better? Because I -- I had appreciated
- 4 from your briefs that you had different
- 5 theories, so I'm just trying to appreciate
- 6 what's happening.
- 7 Are you advocating for the direct
- 8 regulatory impediment species of this? Is that
- 9 what -- is that the rule that you're now
- 10 articulating and it has something to do with
- 11 being completely locked out of the market?
- 12 MR. WALL: That's our front-line rule.
- 13 If the government locks you out of a marketplace
- or tilts it against you and you come in to sue
- to have the playing field leveled, you have
- 16 standing. That's our front-line rule.
- 17 And then, obviously, our
- 18 second-line --
- 19 JUSTICE JACKSON: But you see how
- 20 that's a little bit different than saying -- if
- 21 there's a direct regulatory impediment, that's
- 22 different than saying you have to be completely
- 23 locked out of the market.
- MR. WALL: Well, by direct regulatory
- impediment, I mean sort of a lockout or, as

2.8

- 1 here, a cap, right? It's not that we can't sell
- 2 any fuel at all. It's that we can only sell so
- 3 much fuel in California and the other 17 states
- 4 that have adopted these standards because the
- 5 automakers have to make a certain number of cars
- 6 that don't run on the product we manufacture.
- 7 JUSTICE JACKSON: But where does that
- 8 end? I mean, I -- I guess I'm trying to figure
- 9 out -- I appreciate your argument that the
- 10 regulation is on the automakers and, as a result
- of it being on the automakers, the fuel
- 12 producers are going to make less fuel.
- But what about the convenience store
- operators who are also part of this? They say
- there are fewer people stopping into the
- 16 convenience store as a result. Are they in your
- 17 rule or not?
- 18 MR. WALL: I think that they come much
- 19 closer to the Department of Commerce, but, of
- 20 course, all I need is some Petitioners --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: No, but I'm just
- 22 trying to understand how --
- MR. WALL: Yeah.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: -- your rule works.
- 25 So they -- so this splits your Petitioner --

- 1 your plaintiffs' class here because convenience
- 2 store operators are in. They're not complete --
- 3 in your class. They're not completely locked
- 4 out of the market, so your direct regulatory
- 5 impediment rule doesn't have them.
- 6 MR. WALL: That's right. It's just
- 7 like competitor standing, right? You can
- 8 harm -- you're harmed because they
- 9 under-regulate a competitor. That regulation
- 10 can harm lots of other people, people who supply
- 11 your inputs and all the rest. You have
- 12 competitor standing. Everybody else has to
- 13 satisfy predictable effects, Department of
- 14 Commerce, Warth. The same thing here.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: But the way you --
- 16 you -- when you answered Justice Jackson, you
- said your rule is if the government tilts the
- 18 market against you. And, here, that seems like
- 19 a easy thing to show and not one that would
- 20 cause a lot of debate. But, in many other
- 21 cases, does the -- did the government tilt the
- 22 market against you? Did it not? How much?
- That would be a hard thing to show.
- 24 And -- and why shouldn't we just stick with a
- 25 rule that says we're going to look in each case

- 1 as to the -- the facts and the evidence, and
- then we're going to apply reasonable inferences
- 3 and we're going to reach a decision, rather than
- 4 try to stick everybody -- do you fit the
- 5 categorical rule or do you not fit the
- 6 categorical rule?
- 7 MR. WALL: Justice Kagan, two things.
- 8 First, it hasn't been a problem on the
- 9 competitor standing side, and it's not a problem
- 10 here. We drew a very narrow rule. We took the
- 11 language of the D.C. Circuit that it had lived
- 12 with for quite a while.
- 13 JUSTICE KAGAN: See, I think that the
- 14 question are you a competitor seems a lot easier
- to answer in a lot more cases than the question
- 16 has the government tilted the market against
- 17 you.
- MR. WALL: Well --
- 19 JUSTICE KAGAN: I'll bet there are a
- thousand people in every regulation who can come
- 21 in and say this regulation tilt the market --
- 22 tilted the market against me.
- MR. WALL: I take the point. That --
- that language was a shorthand for what we're
- saying in our brief, which is the language of

- 1 the D.C. Circuit, a direct regulatory 2 impediment. And as we explained, what we meant 3 by that and what the D.C. Circuit meant is, are you preventing someone from selling or placing 4 into a market? If it is a direct regulatory 5 6 impediment, you could sell yesterday, but you 7 can't sell today, you qualify for the rule. So 8 I think it's quite a narrow rule. 9 And the second thing is: Why do it? It's the answer I gave to Justice Barrett: 10 11 Because, otherwise, we're going to have to have 12 this debate in every case. And, yes, I think I 13 win as a matter of common sense, but three 14 judges of the D.C. Circuit, as it turned out, 15 disagreed with me. And it seems to me we 16 shouldn't have that debate in every case. 17 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, 18 counsel. 19 Justice Thomas, anything further?
- 20 Justice Alito?
- 21 Justice Kagan?
- 2.2 Justice Gorsuch?
- 23 Justice Kavanaugh?
- 24 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: I'm not sure
- 25 there's a huge amount of difference between the

- 1 rule and the -- and the backup position. I
- 2 mean, the rule is based on a common-sense -- the
- 3 common-sense predictable effects in a particular
- 4 context. But, either way you go, you get to the
- 5 same destination. I'm -- I guess I'm not seeing
- 6 a huge gap.
- 7 MR. WALL: I agree, Justice Kavanaugh.
- 8 We should win no matter what the Court says.
- 9 But --
- 10 (Laughter.)
- 11 MR. WALL: -- I -- you know, I do
- 12 think that a case like this, it's not that
- there's day -- there should be daylight in the
- 14 right outcomes. It's that once we make it about
- evidence, right, we're going to have to come in
- every case and there's going to be a debate,
- 17 like, well, what do you have to show to trigger
- 18 a common-sense inference and how common is that
- 19 common sense. Here --
- 20 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Well, what we said
- 21 last year in FDA versus Alliance for Hippocratic
- 22 Medicine, just summarizing what the standing law
- 23 should be, kind of gets at it, doesn't it?
- 24 MR. WALL: I would have thought so
- too, Justice Kavanaugh, but here we are. But

- 1 I -- look, I'll be the first to grant that if
- 2 you take that paragraph in Alliance for
- 3 Hippocratic Medicine and you say, look, even if
- 4 we're not going to call it a rule, there are
- 5 certain categories where we've said the effects
- 6 seem awfully predictable and this falls into one
- 7 of the categories, that starts to look pretty
- 8 much like a rule to me, but I'll grant that if
- 9 that's language that the Court thinks squares
- 10 more comfortably with its standing precedents in
- 11 general, it gets us to the -- it should get us
- 12 to the same place.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Thank you.
- 14 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 15 Gorsuch, anything?
- 16 I'm sorry. Justice Jackson?
- 17 JUSTICE JACKSON: Yeah. So what --
- 18 what about corn and soybean growers? Are they
- 19 in or out?
- MR. WALL: They're in. They --
- 21 they --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: They're in?
- 23 MR. WALL: Yes. They make liquid
- 24 fuel, various kinds of liquid fuel, ethanol and
- 25 all the rest. And this rule says, no, can't go

- 1 try to convince the automakers to use your fuel.
- 2 They have to use -- make a certain --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: So, I mean, what --
- 4 what about the ones that aren't quite the fuel
- 5 producers, but they're earlier in the chain?
- 6 MR. WALL: It's --
- 7 JUSTICE JACKSON: I mean, it sounds to
- 8 me like your rule is conferring standing on
- 9 anyone in the chain of production in a product
- 10 that gets affected as a result of government
- 11 regulation.
- 12 MR. WALL: I don't mean to reach down
- the road to all the inputs and suppliers,
- 14 Justice Jackson.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: But how do you stop
- 16 reaching down the road?
- MR. WALL: Are you the producer? We
- 18 make and sell liquid fuel, and the government
- 19 says you could sell to them yesterday, but you
- 20 can only sell a certain amount today. That is a
- 21 direct restriction on the product we make and
- 22 sell. That -- we, by any account, ought to have
- 23 standing.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Thank you.
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,

1	counsel.
2	MR. WALL: Thank you.
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Mr. Kneedler.
4	ORAL ARGUMENT OF EDWIN S. KNEEDLER
5	ON BEHALF OF THE FEDERAL RESPONDENTS
6	MR. KNEEDLER: Mr. Chief Justice, and
7	may it please the Court:
8	Petitioners contend that there should
9	be a categorical rule establishing
10	redressability whenever the plaintiff challenges
11	government action that poses an impediment to
12	the use of its product without any need for an
13	evidentiary basis for that categorical rule or
14	prediction.
15	That proposal is inconsistent with
16	this Court's decisions which require a factual
17	basis for standing.
18	My friend refers to Department of
19	Commerce and the idea of a predictable or
20	common-sense outcome. And in Department of
21	Commerce, there was an evidentiary record.
22	There was evidence submitted. There were
23	factual findings that undergirded the prediction
24	or or the result in Department of Commerce,

where the Court could then conclude that people

- 1 who were answering a survey about -- or asked to
- 2 answer a census about the -- their citizenship
- 3 would be deterred from doing it. It wasn't just
- 4 a -- common sense.
- 5 And that runs throughout this Court's
- 6 standing law. And it's especially important
- 7 here because this Court has indeed said that
- 8 if -- if the plaintiff is subject -- is the
- 9 subject of the regulation, it may be easy to
- 10 prove.
- But, when the plaintiff is not, the
- 12 Court has said repeatedly it's more difficult to
- establish standing because whether you -- your
- injury is caused by or will be redressed by the
- 15 Court's decision depends on decisions by third
- 16 parties, which may or may not be -- be true, and
- 17 you need evidence to support a conclusion that
- 18 that would be true.
- I welcome the Court's questions.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: Mr. Kneedler, wasn't
- 21 the -- a goal of the California regulations to
- 22 reduce the use of Petitioners' fuel?
- MR. KNEEDLER: Certainly, in 2013,
- 24 when -- when it was adopted -- I think this is
- 25 an important point. In 2013, where the fuel

- 1 producers were already selling in the market, it
- 2 would have been, I think, quite easy to show
- 3 that their injury derived from this new
- 4 regulation, it was caused by that regulation,
- 5 and it would be redressed by lifting it.
- 6 It's now 10 years later, though. The
- 7 manufacturers -- and no one else challenged the
- 8 waiver in 2013. In the meantime, there has been
- 9 10 years of practical experience in which
- 10 manufacturers have adjusted and quite without
- 11 regard -- or without resting upon the California
- 12 rule have --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: But, when EPA
- reinstated the rule in 2022, was it intended to
- do nothing at all?
- 16 MR. KNEEDLER: No, not at all. And --
- 17 and the -- I think -- on that point, I think
- 18 it's important to understand the legal rationale
- or the legal analysis that EPA brought to bear.
- 20 And this is something on which there has been
- 21 changes from one administration to the next, and
- that's under review.
- But the -- a -- a waiver in the -- in
- 24 the approach that EPA was taking is for the
- 25 entire California program, not just these two

- 1 particular standards. So the -- a -- a -- a
- 2 waiver is for the entire program. And if the
- 3 entire program is necessary to address
- 4 compelling and extraordinary circumstances,
- 5 that's sufficient.
- 6 But the other -- another important
- 7 point is that --
- 8 JUSTICE KAGAN: But, in 2022, didn't
- 9 the EPA, in fact, in its submissions to the
- 10 courts say that the effect of the reinstatement
- was going to be to reduce gasoline emissions?
- MR. KNEEDLER: They -- they said that
- in -- in -- in 2021 based, frankly, I think, on
- 14 2019 projections. A lot happened in the --
- 15 especially in the zero-emission vehicle market
- 16 between --
- 17 JUSTICE KAGAN: So we shouldn't take
- 18 the EPA's own representations seriously because
- 19 they --
- MR. KNEEDLER: Oh, it's California,
- 21 but --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: I think both EPA and
- 23 California made those representations in its
- 24 papers.
- MR. KNEEDLER: Well, yes, but -- but

- 1 was that sufficient to -- I -- the evidence, as
- 2 you said, is pretty thin. And it's also
- 3 important to recognize what the --
- 4 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, if it was so
- 5 thin, I don't think that you had a grounds to --
- 6 to reinstate the waiver.
- 7 MR. KNEEDLER: Well --
- 8 JUSTICE KAGAN: Or -- and -- and if --
- 9 you know, if it's so thin, why did you say what
- 10 you say in your briefs, and why did California
- 11 say what it said in its briefs? Because both
- 12 parties, I think, said in -- in their briefs,
- 13 yes, this is going to reduce gasoline emissions.
- MR. KNEEDLER: Well, what -- what EPA
- did in -- or the -- the reason -- the principal
- 16 reason that it did what it did in 2022 was
- 17 because it concluded that the withdrawal of the
- 18 previous waiver was unlawful. It was correcting
- 19 an error before. It was not -- it was not a new
- 20 waiver.
- 21 What -- what EPA did was conclude that
- 22 what it had done in 2019 was unlawful for a
- variety of reasons. It rested on an erroneous
- 24 interpretation of the statute, the one that I
- 25 was just mentioning to you about do you look at

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1
      the whole program or do you look at -- at -- at
 2
     particular standards.
 3
                So they were -- they were going back
     without -- without making a -- a -- a brand-new
 4
      assessment. And that's why I think it's
 5
 6
      important to recognize that between 2013 --
      there's no doubt that in 2013 that the man --
 7
      that full -- fuel producers were injured and
 8
 9
      that that would have been redressed by
      rescinding the rule.
10
11
                But that's not the case now because
12
      the manufacturers have adjusted and the market
13
     now reflects the fact that they are -- that
14
     there's no particular reason to assume -- or at
15
      least there is objective evidence contradicting
16
      the proposition that the manufacturers would
17
      change their behavior --
18
                JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Mr. Kneedler --
                MR. KNEEDLER: -- in a material way.
19
20
                JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- the California
      intervenors said that California's regulation
21
2.2
     would mitigate competitive disadvantage by
23
      ensuring "a level playing field" for
24
      manufacturers who wanted to produce more
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fuel-efficient vehicles.

1	I just don't see how that statement
2	alone doesn't destroy everything you're arguing.
3	MR. KNEEDLER: Well
4	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Meaning if it
5	what it's doing is mitigating a competitive
6	level or or supporting a competitive
7	system, isn't that a negative effect on them?
8	MR. KNEEDLER: Let me make one other
9	point because I think it's responsive to that,
LO	and that is that the D.C. Circuit was relying or
L1	both FRAP and the local rule, Rule 28, that
L2	addresses how standing an assertion of
L3	standing should be raised on a direct petition
L4	for review. It has to be raised in the
L5	petition excuse me in the opening brief
L6	with any supporting materials.
L7	The only thing that was that was
L8	submitted here were the 14 declarations that, in
L9	a conclusory matter manner, said that their
20	injuries would be the Petitioners here, their
21	injuries would be ameliorated if
22	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But now we have a
23	full record.
24	MR. KNEEDLER: Well, but
25	TIISTICE SOTOMAYOR: And if if

1 let's --2 MR. KNEEDLER: But -- but the --3 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- address Mr. Wall's concern, which is, if we reverse for 4 the D.C. Circuit to look at this again, vacate 5 6 and remand only, correcting their 2025 7 ending-date misperception, are you saying that we -- we should not just say they have standing 8 on what we have before us now? 9 10 MR. KNEEDLER: No, I think that --11 I -- I think, if the Court is uncertain, it 12 should vacate and --13 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: No, if we're not 14 uncertain. 15 MR. KNEEDLER: Well, but what you have 16 here is effectively a summary judgment ruling in 17 favor of -- of EPA. 18 If -- if you think that there was --19 that there are disputed issues of fact going to 20 the question of whether -- what the effect of 21 the reinstatement was, then just like any other 22 situation, it go -- should go to the trier of 23 fact to determine what the effect would be.

effectively relying on the categorical rule

There should not -- otherwise, you're

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1 or -- or prediction that we think is wrong.
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- We -- we agree --
- 3 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: In the -- in the
- 4 D.C. --
- 5 MR. KNEEDLER: -- that it should be
- 6 fact-based.
- 7 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Sorry to
- 8 interrupt.
- 9 MR. KNEEDLER: Sorry.
- 10 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: In the D.C.
- 11 Circuit, EPA did not challenge standing.
- MR. KNEEDLER: That's correct.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And that's unusual
- in my experience. Why -- why not?
- MR. KNEEDLER: The -- it -- it did
- 16 not. And it -- and it -- I think maybe it -- it
- 17 should have, I think, particularly in
- 18 retrospect. But the issues of standing --
- 19 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: But isn't that a
- 20 tell here? I mean, EPA, as you, of course,
- 21 know, routinely raises standing objections when
- there's even -- even a hint of a question about
- 23 it.
- MR. KNEEDLER: But -- but when --
- 25 when -- later on, after the government filed its

- 1 brief, that's when California made its standing
- 2 submission in it -- in its later-filed brief.
- 3 And then it should have been incumbent
- 4 on Petitioners to respond to that with something
- 5 beyond the conclusory affidavits that they did,
- 6 and -- and they really didn't come back with
- 7 anything substantial in their reply brief, and
- 8 they sought to file a supplemental brief, which
- 9 the D.C. Circuit rejected, and they haven't
- 10 sought review of that here.
- 11 So I -- I -- but I want to stress
- 12 that -- that we agree with the observation by a
- 13 number of the Justices that this should be a
- 14 factual inquiry. There may be many situations
- in which it should be easy, and I think that
- 16 that would cover the category -- most of the
- 17 categories that Mr. Wall is mentioning.
- In -- in a direct regulate -- if you
- 19 have a directly regulated party, the -- the --
- this Court has said repeatedly it's probably
- 21 going to be pretty easy to establish standing.
- 22 But, when -- when the redressability
- 23 turns on decisions by a -- by a third party not
- 24 before the Court, I think it's -- I think it's
- 25 not a good idea to establish effectively a -- a

- 1 categorical or common-sense or predictive rule
- 2 because there are a number of situations in
- 3 which the Court has concluded that the fact that
- 4 they're independent decision-makers defeats
- 5 standing.
- 6 JUSTICE JACKSON: So, Mr. Kneedler, is
- 7 this really about -- I'm just trying to think
- 8 back to your conversation with Justice Thomas
- 9 and Justice Kagan. Is this really about the
- 10 sort of development of facts on the ground?
- 11 That it sounds to me like what you're saying is
- that originally, back in 2013, when this
- regulation was initially enacted and everybody
- 14 knew and said it was to reduce fuel emissions,
- 15 that a lawsuit brought at that moment has
- injury, causation, and redressability, noting
- that causation and redressability are actually
- 18 two different factors with respect to standing,
- but that, you know, however many years later, in
- 20 2022, because the auto industry has actually on
- 21 the ground adjusted to the regulation and no
- longer has a demand for the fuel products, you
- 23 might have injury, you might have causation, but
- I think you're saying you no longer have
- 25 redressability in that situation, that this

- 1 might be one of the rare instances in which
- these things aren't lining up 10, 12 years later
- 3 in the same way they would at the beginning.
- 4 And, therefore, a bright-line rule
- 5 that just has us thinking about the initial
- 6 scenario, like, was there injury, was there --
- 7 is it common sense, is not going to work because
- 8 what we're really supposed to be thinking about
- 9 in redressability land is the facts on the
- 10 ground and whether or not this -- changing this
- 11 regulation is going to make any difference?
- 12 MR. KNEEDLER: I think that's exactly
- 13 right. And this is a situation where
- 14 redressability gets separated. And may -- maybe
- it would be helpful if I illustrated this in
- 16 another way. If a manufacturer had brought a
- 17 challenge to this regulation -- of course, no
- 18 manufacturer had done so -- the manufacturer
- 19 would have been required to say, if this waiver
- 20 is set aside, I will engage in the conduct that
- 21 the regulation prohibits, which is producing a
- 22 fleet that doesn't comply with the California
- 23 measures.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: At the beginning,
- we'd be predicting that the manufacturer would

- 1 be -- at the beginning, we'd be predicting. The
- 2 manufacturer would say that if they were the
- 3 plaintiff, and we'd be looking at evidence to
- 4 see if that was going to happen.
- 5 Here, it's already happened that
- 6 they've changed their results, right?
- 7 MR. KNEEDLER: Right. And -- and
- 8 there's certainly no evidence as far as I can
- 9 see that there would be an -- an immediate
- 10 material change in what -- in what manufacturers
- 11 would do, or at least that was the conclusion
- 12 the district -- or the court of appeals drew
- from the record. Maybe down the road, five, 10
- 14 years ago -- or, in the future someday, the
- 15 manufacturers might decide that they want to
- 16 change their conduct.
- 17 But this Court has said some -- such
- 18 someday intentions down the road are not
- 19 sufficient to establish standing. It's too
- 20 contingent, it's too speculative. So, a
- 21 fortiori, the same thing should be true of the
- 22 fuel producers, who are not the directly
- 23 regulated parties, and they should -- they
- 24 should be required to show that the
- 25 manufacturers would change their behavior here

- 1 and now, not sometime in -- in the future. 2 think that lines up with what this Court has said in Defenders of Wildlife and other cases. 3 And what may seem odd here is I think 4 precisely the mismatch that Justice Jackson was 5 referring to. And I don't think the Court 6 7 should adopt a -- a categorical or new rule or 8 new principles of standing to deal with this 9 particular case because this is actually the -the quintessential case in which there should be 10 11 a factual determination because there is --12 there is evidence that what one might think about common sense or prediction or the way the 13 14 market might react is not so in this case. 15 And so there should at least be an 16 opportunity for the government to show that it's 17 not so and for the court of appeals in this case to determine what -- what do -- what does the 18 19 evidence in the -- in the case show. 20 JUSTICE ALITO: Suppose there were an affidavit by one carmaker saying that if this 21 2.2 waiver is rescinded, we will manufacture one
- 25 one more car.

24

additional car. Would that be enough?

absolutely commit ourselves, we will manufacture

1	MR. KNEEDLER: I I think there are	
2	many situations in which, you know, one person	
3	saying that would be enough. One of the things,	
4	again, that is that is, I think, cautionary	
5	in this case is that that begins to look a lot	
6	like the probability from some of the Court's	
7	other cases, like if one member of the Sierra	
8	Club could say surely one member will will be	
9	injured and, therefore, we should have standing.	
LO	The question here isn't what one	
L1	manufacturer would do, but do any of the	
L2	individual plaintiffs benefit from what that one	
L3	manufacturer will do by producing an additional	
L4	car? That's why I think the Court ought to	
L5	think about this in broader terms, whether ther	
L6	will be a material change in the industry.	
L7	Otherwise, you're you're allowing the corn	
L8	farmer or or a small liquid fuel producer to	
L9	have standing because one car might be produced.	
20	JUSTICE ALITO: Yeah. Okay.	
21	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,	
22	counsel.	
23	Justice Thomas?	
24	Anything further?	
25	TIISTICE MITTO: Well one more	

- 1 question. By my count, the EPA has now changed
- 2 its mind on this four times. Am I right?
- 3 MR. KNEEDLER: Yes, I think that's
- 4 right.
- 5 JUSTICE ALITO: So what is the
- 6 probability that there will not be a fifth?
- 7 MR. KNEEDLER: Well, it is under --
- 8 the -- the president in an executive order
- 9 directed EPA to examine issue -- measures that
- 10 might have an effect, and EPA is undertaking
- 11 that. So I -- I can't say what EPA will decide,
- but this is one of those that has, indeed,
- gone -- gone back and forth.
- But I don't think that should affect
- 15 the standing analysis because, despite that
- 16 back-and-forth, the manufacturers have gone
- 17 forward with their own plans because of their
- 18 own sustainability concerns or looking to the
- 19 future, where they're -- they're making
- 20 investments and they want to stick by that path.
- 21 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 22 Sotomayor?
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You're not a
- 24 betting man, are you?
- MR. KNEEDLER: Pardon me?

1	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You're not a	
2	betting man that you don't want to guess that	
3	there's going to be a fifth change?	
4	MR. KNEEDLER: I I'm respecting	
5	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I I	
6	MR. KNEEDLER: the administrative	
7	process. I know, but	
8	(Laughter.)	
9	9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Kagar	
10	JUSTICE KAGAN: I mean, just out of	
11	curiosity, is there anything you can say about	
12	the timing of that process?	
13	MR. KNEEDLER: Not not at at	
14	this point. I I think the the general	
15	tenor of the executive order was to, you know,	
16	do this, you know, expeditiously or with due	
17	consideration. But, no, I don't have anything	
18	specific.	
19	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice	
20	Gorsuch?	
21	Justice Kavanaugh?	
22	Justice Barrett?	
23	Justice Jackson?	
24	Thank you, counsel.	
25	Mr. Klein.	

1	ORAL ARGUMENT OF JOSHUA A. KLEIN	
2	ON BEHALF OF THE STATE RESPONDENTS	
3	MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chief Justice, and may	
4	it please the Court:	
5	Federal courts don't assume there's	
6	standing. The presumption runs the other way.	
7	The party who brings a case must establish that	
8	it, in fact, meets each element of standing.	
9	That may be easier or harder depending on the	
10	case, and Petitioners' case had unique problems.	
11	EPA first approved this waiver in	
12	2013, and the automakers quickly started working	
13	to meet the standards. But this case started in	
14	2022. The technology and market had changed.	
15	Petitioners relied on decade-old	
16	predictions from the original waiver	
17	proceedings, but the only up-to-date evidence	
18	showed surging consumer demand for clean cars	
19	and automakers' sales well above any regulatory	
20	requirements.	
21	Petitioners failed their burden to	
22	establish a non-speculative likelihood that	
23	automakers would sell more gas cars, and	
24	Petitioners sell more fuel, without the waiver.	
25	And there is no basis for inventing categorical	

- 1 rules that would have courts exercise Article
- 2 III power where the elements of standing don't,
- 3 in fact, exist.
- I welcome the Court's questions.
- 5 JUSTICE THOMAS: Well, if you're
- 6 accurate about where the auto manufacturers are
- 7 now, are you willing to say your rules are
- 8 unnecessary?
- 9 MR. KLEIN: Well, Your Honor, we would
- 10 agree that the rule -- this set of standards is
- 11 not having an effect on emissions today.
- 12 JUSTICE THOMAS: No. I mean, would --
- are you willing to say they're unnecessary?
- MR. KLEIN: They're not necessary for
- our emissions goals. The statutory meaning of
- 16 need in Section 209(b) is very precise. It
- 17 refers to -- as this EPA decision correctly
- interpreted it, it refers to the need for
- 19 California to have a separate vehicle emissions
- 20 program as a whole, at all, not the need for
- 21 each successive individual waiver or standard.
- 22 And we do have a need for our entire program as
- a whole.
- 24 JUSTICE THOMAS: So can you -- can you
- 25 say that each element of the automotive

- 1 industry or manufacturing industry is satisfied
- 2 or making -- adjusting to your rules?
- 3 Let's say, for example, can you say
- 4 that heavy trucking or medium trucking or large
- 5 RVs all could -- accepting of your rule and
- 6 complying with it?
- 7 MR. KLEIN: Well, I guess I haven't
- 8 thought about that because this standard affects
- 9 light-duty vehicles, which include pickup
- 10 trucks, I think --
- 11 JUSTICE THOMAS: Yeah.
- 12 MR. KLEIN: -- but not the other
- things that you've mentioned.
- But, as a -- as a broader question --
- if the question is about the broader market as a
- 16 whole, I -- I think, you know, the Court had
- 17 nothing to do but speculate as to whether some
- 18 set --
- 19 JUSTICE THOMAS: Okay. Well, let's
- just take the trucks then. Let's take the light
- 21 trucks. Are you willing to say that without
- 22 your rules, the light truck industry would
- 23 continue marketing the mix of vehicles it's
- 24 currently marketing or manufacturing?
- MR. KLEIN: Your Honor, we can't

- 1 quarantee that, but I can say it was
- 2 Petitioners' burden to create a non-spec -- to
- 3 establish a non-speculative likelihood under
- 4 this Court's precedent.
- 5 JUSTICE THOMAS: Why would you expect
- 6 that of them if you're not willing to say: Your
- 7 rules are unnecessary at this point, or
- 8 ineffectual?
- 9 MR. KLEIN: Well, Your Honor, this
- 10 Court's cases have always put the burden on a
- 11 plaintiff or the party who invokes federal
- 12 jurisdiction to support with facts.
- Now we did address the only facts they
- 14 brought, which were facts about the California
- market with 2012/2013 predictions, but it was
- 16 not our burden to disprove every possible
- 17 likely -- every possible --
- 18 JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. -- Mr. Klein,
- 19 I'm -- I'm wondering, actually, whether you, in
- 20 fact, made their case for them. So I'm thinking
- 21 here of the Vanderspek declaration, which was
- 22 submitted in support of your motion to
- intervene, and here's one of the things it says.
- 24 There are a couple more, but it says: Should
- 25 EPA's restoration of California's waiver for the

- 1 state's existing light-duty vehicle
- 2 greenhouse-gas emission and ZEV standards be
- 3 overturned -- should those be overturned -- it
- 4 would result in higher criteria pollutant and
- 5 greenhouse-gas emissions.
- 6 Doesn't that just sort of make their
- 7 case?
- 8 MR. KLEIN: Well, it would --
- 9 JUSTICE KAGAN: That's out of your own
- 10 mouth.
- 11 MR. KLEIN: It was, Your Honor. And
- 12 let me place it in context. That declaration
- was filed within days of the petitions for
- 14 review and to support one basis of our
- intervention, not our independent basis as a
- sovereign whose laws would be preempted, to
- 17 support one basis.
- 18 It -- the declarations relied on and
- 19 cited preexisting analyses which were themselves
- 20 based on 2019 DMV data. And it turned out that
- 21 when the parties had the burden to really
- 22 address standing before the court could exercise
- its power on the merits, we presented evidence
- that that 2019 data was no longer representative
- of the actual market. The market had

- dramatically changed. And we did promptly bring
- 2 that to the court's attention.
- 3 And Petitioners never responded about
- 4 the condition of the market in 2022. They
- 5 doubled down on presumptions and assumptions and
- 6 categorical rules, and they cited -- and I -- I
- 7 want to be clear about this. Mr. Wall cited JA
- 8 66, and if you look at that page, it addressed
- 9 the 2013 and 2019 records that EPA had because,
- 10 by the time the 2022 restoration decision was
- 11 coming around, our focus and EPA's focus was
- that the 2019 recission had been substantively
- and procedurally wrong because the -- the 2013
- record adequately supported the 2013 findings
- and the 2019 record didn't give a basis to -- to
- 16 overturn that.
- 17 And you can see that, for instance,
- 18 from the full discussion in the appendix to the
- 19 petition, around pages 226 to 227 of the EPA
- decision, not the executive summary that their
- 21 briefs cite, which shows EPA's focus on the 2013
- 22 record and whether that record was deficient, as
- 23 the 2019 recission decision had found.
- And that's, of course, on top of what
- was really our fundamental argument and EPA's

- 1 fundamental position, which is longstanding and
- 2 from administrators throughout the life of this
- 3 provision, except for this very brief period,
- 4 which is that the need criterion in Section
- 5 209(b) refers to the need for California to have
- 6 a separate vehicle emissions program at all,
- 7 with all the standards we've enacted, you know,
- 8 which it's a program we've had since, frankly,
- 9 before the Clean Air Act was enacted.
- 10 And I -- I also want to --
- 11 JUSTICE BARRETT: Mr. Klein, can I ask
- 12 you a question? What is the burden of proof as
- 13 you see it here? Just more likely than not?
- MR. KLEIN: Your cases haven't quite
- said that, Your Honor. The language you've used
- is a non-speculative likelihood.
- 17 And I think the cleanest thing to look
- 18 at is the non-speculative part because, if there
- 19 aren't facts supporting a -- a --
- 20 JUSTICE BARRETT: So what kind of
- 21 facts would you have wanted them to introduce?
- 22 Like affidavits from car manufacturers?
- MR. KLEIN: They could have, but it
- certainly didn't need to be that. The D.C.
- 25 Circuit opinion didn't say that. And we would

- 1 not say that.
- 2 Anything in the admin -- in an
- 3 administrative record which shows how the
- 4 directly regulated third party is likely to act.
- 5 There could be additional material.
- 6 JUSTICE BARRETT: But don't you think
- 7 the affidavit that Justice Kagan read you or --
- 8 I mean, I think -- I -- I don't think it's
- 9 speculation or wild speculation if you're
- 10 relying on common-sense inferences.
- I mean, at some point, if you think
- 12 that they've carried the burden -- I'm not
- 13 saying that you couldn't poke holes in that,
- but, you know, at some point, don't you think
- that California could have tried to poke holes
- 16 that might take them down -- it's just -- it's
- 17 not that high a burden.
- I guess I'm having a hard time seeing
- 19 why the affidavits and common-sense inferences
- 20 wouldn't just get them over that mark.
- 21 MR. KLEIN: Let me compare it to two
- of this Court's cases, Lujan versus National
- 23 Wildlife Federation and the recent Carney case
- on Delaware judicial selection.
- In the Lujan case, the plaintiffs

- 1 submitted a declaration which maybe on its face
- 2 would have seemed sufficient: We recreate in
- 3 the area of -- I think it was Green Mountain --
- 4 and this mining will occur in the Green Mountain
- 5 Reserve.
- 6 But the United States submitted
- 7 evidence that the Green Mountain Reserve was
- 8 hundreds of thousands of acres and only a small
- 9 percentage was subject to the mining.
- 10 This Court held there was no APA
- 11 standing because the -- once the plaintiff's
- 12 affidavit was understood with what it actually
- was and wasn't saying, it was insufficient.
- Now, in Carney more recently, the
- 15 plaintiff said: If this judicial selection
- 16 criterion was -- was set aside, then I would
- 17 apply for any Delaware judicial spot.
- 18 And the defendants showed evidence
- 19 that: No, there were several spots that were
- 20 open recent -- recently that -- where this
- 21 criterion did not apply and you would have been
- 22 eligible, and you did not submit an application.
- 23 And, again, it showed that what the plaintiff
- 24 was saying was insufficient.
- Well, here, the plaintiff was saying:

1 These 2012 predictions show that we are injured. 2 And our evidence and -- showed: No, 3 that's not obvious, and there's no reason to think that's correct because the technology had 4 already improved, maybe thanks to our standards 5 6 back during the preceding years and years. 7 market had already developed. Maybe it was our standards that -- and -- as well as other things 8 that made auto manufacturers invest in 9 10 developing that market. But the -- the point is that by 2022, 11 12 the cake was baked. Or at least Petitioners presented no evidence that there was -- that 13 14 there would be any likelihood of a change if 15 this regulation were struck down. 16 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: You don't expect 17 the court of appeals to have a trial when there's affidavits that go both ways, do you? 18 19 MR. KLEIN: No, Your Honor. We -- we 20 think that would --21 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: So how does the 2.2 court of appeals then evaluate the affidavits? 23 MR. KLEIN: Well, I think it --JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Doesn't it have to 24

use some kind of common-sense understanding of

- 1 how markets work if it's not going to have
- 2 witnesses and what have you?
- 3 MR. KLEIN: Your Honor, I think the
- 4 court -- as the United States' brief said,
- 5 courts are quite accustomed to making decisions
- 6 about whether the particular inferences from
- 7 some evidence has a gap.
- 8 Not a credibility question. This
- 9 wasn't is our expert smarter than their expert.
- 10 This was a fundamental gap in the reasoning
- 11 which made them not having -- which left them
- 12 nothing but speculation.
- 13 And -- and so I think that -- now,
- 14 again, this -- this situation will -- will not
- 15 arise that frequently. I mean, this is a kind
- of unheard-of nine-year gap.
- 17 And, in fact, Petitioners have pending
- 18 challenges to newer waiver that -- they raise
- 19 many of the same issues, I assume. And -- and
- 20 for those, there will be Article III standing
- 21 because, for those, the newer waiver is for
- 22 standards that will require automakers to change
- 23 what they're doing so that the -- the
- 24 unregulated party, the fuel sellers, will change
- 25 how much fuel they sell.

1	But that was not the case here.	
2	JUSTICE JACKSON: So is your	
3	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: How	
4	JUSTICE JACKSON: answer to oh,	
5	I'm sorry, go ahead.	
6	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Go ahead. Go	
7	ahead.	
8	JUSTICE JACKSON: Is your answer to	
9	Justice Kavanaugh that common sense does play a	
10	role when evidence is being presented on both	
11	sides, but what you hear the other side to be	
12	saying is we should substitute where there	
13	there doesn't need to be evidence, they're	
14	saying, we can just draw these common-sense	
15	inferences as a general matter?	
16	MR. KLEIN: I think that's basically	
17	right, Your Honor. The I mean, our point is	
18	the inferences have to be based on evidence tha	
19	permits the inference. That's you know, in	
20	Department of Commerce, there was no prediction	
21	just from the air from this Court's or the	
22	district court's	
23	JUSTICE JACKSON: Right.	
24	MR. KLEIN: feeling	
25	JUSTICE JACKSON: So that's that's	

- 1 your argument to the bright-line rule. Mr. Wall
- 2 says, but we did have evidence, and he points to
- 3 these declarations. And you're saying, in your
- 4 view, those declarations were insufficient
- 5 because they were based on old or outdated
- 6 information?
- 7 MR. KLEIN: Well, Petitioners'
- 8 declarations as to remedy were entirely
- 9 speculative and -- sorry, not speculative.
- 10 Conclusory, right? They just said this would be
- 11 redressed if you strike down the law.
- 12 I -- I want to make sure the Court
- 13 understands the one piece of evidence that we
- 14 haven't talked about, which is Minnesota. The
- 15 Petitioners do not appear to contest the United
- 16 States' point at I think it's page 38 of their
- 17 brief that the Minnesota report that was buried
- in one of the 14 declarations and not cited in
- 19 the court of appeal did not actually say that
- 20 there would be any -- that automakers would have
- 21 to change what they were doing in response to
- 22 the standard. That just compared what if
- 23 automakers do the bare minimum that's required
- 24 under the federal standard versus what if they
- do the bare minimum that would be required under

- 1 the state standard and did not address what's
- 2 really the question in this case, which is how
- 3 can there be an injury that's redressable if
- 4 automakers, for their own reasons and their own
- 5 motives, are doing more than either set of
- 6 regulatory requirements.
- 7 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 8 counsel.
- 9 Justice Thomas, anything further?
- 10 Justice Alito?
- 11 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, just so I have
- it fresh in mind, could you go back to the very
- 13 first question that Justice Thomas asked you:
- 14 Why do you need the waiver at this point?
- MR. KLEIN: Right. Your Honor, we --
- this waiver makes no difference right now to
- 17 California's emissions control. So, as to this
- 18 particular waiver, if we were applying for it
- 19 now, I -- well, I don't think we would apply for
- it now because that's why we superseded this
- 21 with a new waiver that will require automakers
- 22 to make a change. We achieved our goals faster
- and to a larger extent than we'd expected, but
- there's just no sign anything would change now
- 25 if the waiver were struck down.

1	JUSTICE ALITO: So your do I	
2	understand your answer to say you don't need	
3	this waiver?	
4	MR. KLEIN: Your Honor, no I mean,	
5	we don't need the waiver for emissions control.	
6	We we are glad that the 2019 recission was	
7	struck down because of its erroneous substantive	
8	and procedural rulings, but this waiver is not	
9	making a difference on the ground now.	
10	JUSTICE ALITO: Thank you.	
11	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice	
12	Sotomayor?	
13	Justice Kagan?	
14	Justice Gorsuch? No?	
15	Justice Barrett?	
16	Justice Jackson?	
17	Thank you, counsel.	
18	Rebuttal, Mr. Wall?	
19	REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF JEFFREY B. WALL	
20	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS	
21	MR. WALL: Just a few points, Your	
22	Honor.	
23	The first, Mr. Kneedler says, look,	
24	who knows what will happen in the market five,	
25	10 years down the road. Just so, that's why the	

- 1 Court should adopt our front-line rule. We
- 2 should be allowed to compete in this marketplace
- 3 because we don't know exactly what will happen
- 4 down the road.
- 5 But let's say that the Court isn't
- 6 persuaded by the front-line rule. I think
- 7 you're right, Justice Kavanaugh, as long as the
- 8 Court repeats the language of Alliance for
- 9 Hippocratic Medicine, says there are certain
- 10 categories in which there are predictable
- 11 effects, and says this case is one of them
- 12 because it's in the upstream or downstream
- category, I think that comes very close to being
- 14 the same thing.
- 15 Why is this case one of them? Justice
- 16 Alito, you're right, all we have to show is that
- one EV would make one fewer electric vehicle in
- 18 any of 18 states. It's not just California.
- 19 Mr. Klein's looking only at California. There
- 20 are 18 states here that -- 17 others that have
- 21 adopted California's standards.
- 22 So what was the record on that? We
- 23 had California's statement in 2021, that's at JA
- 24 66, saying this is critical to reduce emissions.
- 25 Then you have the EPA, when it regrants the

- 1 waiver, saying in 2022, California needs these
- 2 standards. That's at pages 154 and 155 in
- 3 Footnote 180 of the Petition Appendix, also
- 4 pages 64, 65, 180, and 202. It says it again
- 5 and again.
- 6 Now I take Mr. Kneedler's point. The
- 7 EPA did speak out of both sides of its mouth.
- 8 It said, on the one hand, we're not going to
- 9 really go back and look at whether they need the
- 10 standards. We're just looking at whether we
- 11 messed up a few years ago. But they also say
- 12 we've looked at the whole record and California
- 13 needs the standards. I don't know exactly how
- 14 to square those statements, but either they
- abdicated their statutory responsibility or they
- 16 said California does, in fact, need the
- 17 standards.
- 18 And then, in 2022, the two CARB
- 19 declarations come in. I think the Scheehle
- 20 statement at page 115 of the JA is -- is as good
- or better than the Vanderspek statement,
- 22 California itself saying we need the waiver
- 23 because, otherwise, we get fewer electric
- vehicles and more gasoline-powered vehicles.
- Now I thought that the one thing they

1 would not clearly say -- and I can't tell whether California's just saying it doesn't need the waiver now or that was also true back in 3 2022. But I didn't think that either of the --4 either the United States or California would 5 6 say, if we had not gotten the waiver in '22, no 7 automaker would have done anything from that day forward to the end of time, because I thought it 8 9 was something that couldn't credibly be said by 10 anybody to the case because whatever would happen in California, there are lots of other 11 12 states out there that are not close to the same 13 numbers on EV penetration as California. 14 California seemed to hedge on that, 15 Justice Thomas, but wherever California is on 16 that, I don't think it's right. And I -- the 17 one thing is Mr. Kneedler didn't go near it, and I am a betting man, Justice Sotomayor, and I bet 18 my bottom dollar that the reason he didn't is 19 that in some number of months, the EPA will 20 withdraw the waiver and will say this waiver has 21 2.2 been having an effect from the time it was 23 reinstated and it is compelling automakers to 24 make more EVs than would otherwise be produced

in response to consumer demand. If the EPA says

- 1 that in a number of months, it will be right.
- 2 The last thing is I would say the
- 3 Court shouldn't just vacate and remand. That
- 4 does pose the risk that we get ping-ponged
- 5 because it doesn't correct the court of appeals'
- 6 legal errors. Even if it tells them that the
- 7 standards last forever, it doesn't do anything
- 8 on our front-line rule, and it doesn't do
- 9 anything to correct their misunderstanding of
- 10 how the predictable effects test works.
- It is important for standing purposes
- 12 not just for us but, as our amici explain, for
- 13 lots of challengers in lots of different
- 14 settings. It is important that the Court
- 15 correct the court of appeals' legal errors so
- that we can get our day in court and finally
- 17 have an opportunity to make our case for why EPA
- 18 and California have wrongly interpreted the
- 19 Clean Air Act.
- Thank you.
- 21 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 22 counsel.
- The case is submitted.
- 24 (Whereupon, at 11:10 a.m., the case
- was submitted.)

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