

## **Sara Nichols, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency**

Public Hearing Testimony, July 27th, 2021

Hello, my name is Sara Nichols, and I'm speaking on behalf of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is a special purpose regional government-chartered by state law in 1967. Our jurisdiction covers King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties, which is home to over half of the state's population. Our agency works to realize a vision of clean and healthy air for all people all the time, regardless of socioeconomic status or geographic location.

Today, I want to thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this rulemaking to implement the California Advanced Clean Cars Program here in Washington. Our agency supports this rulemaking for three primary reasons. First, as we know, Washington has committed to reduce its overall greenhouse gas emissions, 95% by the middle of this century, and many regional and local jurisdictions have adopted similar targets. Since almost half of Washington's annual greenhouse gas emissions comes from transportation, the cleaner cars and trucks that will be sold under the ZEV mandate will be essential to meeting these climate targets. Second, electrification of Washington's transportation sector presents an important opportunity to reduce harmful pollutants and improve public health outcomes for the state's residents.

Fossil fuel-related emissions from vehicles are a major source of pollutants, including volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and multiple air toxics. These emissions present an environmental justice problem that directly and disproportionately impacts disadvantaged communities that frequently are located near major freeways, freight corridors, ports, and distribution centers as that mandate will result in numerous co-benefits for the communities that need it most.

Lastly, the ZEV mandate will increase consumer choice for Washington residents who are currently limited in their selections of EVs and other zero-emission vehicles. The number and type of ZEV models available will increase in Washington under the mandate as car companies develop a portfolio of ZEV technologies for their product lines and meet mandate targets.

Thank you again for the opportunity to convey our support for ecology's efforts to implement the California Advanced Clean Cars Program. As mentioned in our written comments, we will submit online the agency is ready and willing to share our expertise and serve as a resource to ecology at any time. Thank you for your consideration.