

Paul Smith

I am extremely disappointed at the short-sighted plan to ban gas-powered vehicles in Washington by 2035. Don't get me wrong. I support being energy efficient. My entire life I've driven some of the most fuel-efficient vehicles available. But the move to ban gas-powered vehicles sounds like fanaticism, not well-reasoned logic. The best evidence of this is how gas-powered vehicles are required to post their mpg, but electric cars don't have to list their efficiency. President Biden test drives the 9000 lb Electric Hummer and we're supposed to pretend that it is a more efficient vehicle than my gas-powered Honda Civic?!

How are we going to generate the additional electricity to meet the increased demand? An electric vehicle is hardly zero carbon if it is getting the electricity from coal or gas plants. Wind and solar don't generate nearly enough power to meet the demand. Hydro power is good, but you're talking about removing dams, not building new ones. If people were talking seriously about expanding nuclear power, then you might have a plan, but even if that was the plan, there is no way to design, permit, and construct the required nuclear plants to meet the 2035 goal.

How will the increased demand impact the power grid? How many more substations will we need? How many more power lines?

I am 100% in favor of improved energy efficiency. Please prove to me that you are too. I want to see if electric vehicles are more efficient, not just that they make you feel good. I want to see a plan for increased electrical generation to meet the need.

You may think the 2035 goal is aspirational, but in the absence of a plan, it just sounds delusional.