

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

My name is Christine Cooley, C-H-R-I-S-T-I-N-E, Cooley, C-O-O-L-E-Y. I am the executive director at the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. The agency is a special-purpose regional government chartered by state law in 1967. We work to protect public health, improve neighborhood air quality and reduce our region's contribution to climate change. The agency's jurisdiction is King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties, which are over half the state's population. We strongly support a zero-emission vehicle or ZEV mandate, and the Department of Ecology's proposed plan to implement California Advanced Clean Cars program here in Washington State. The Puget Sound region and Washington State as a whole are uniquely placed to benefit from an economy-wide transition to zero-emission vehicles. Pollution from cars and trucks is the largest source of both greenhouse gas emissions and harmful air pollution in our region. Our study suggests that diesel exhaust is the number one source of cancer risk from air pollution in our four-county jurisdiction. We also know that transportation pollution disproportionately impacts Black, Indigenous, and communities of color, because these communities are more likely to live near major freeways, freight corridors, ports, and distribution centers. By increasing the number of clean cars and trucks on the road, the ZEV mandate will significantly reduce climate and air pollution. The mandate is complementary to other climate policies Washington is currently implementing, such as the Clean Fuel Standard, the Climate Commitment Act, and the Clean Energy Transformation Act. Our region's electricity, already one of the cleanest in the country, will become even cleaner over the next decade. Lastly, the ZEV mandate is good for Washington consumers. It will increase the number of zero-emission vehicle models on the market, both new and used. More electric vehicle models will enable more Washington consumers to save thousands of dollars due to lower fuel and maintenance costs of driving EVs. As battery prices continue to drop, electric vehicles will become cheaper to purchase than gasoline-fueled vehicles. Thank you to the Department of Ecology for their hard work so far in advancing a ZEV mandate for Washington State. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our support for this rule, and thank you for your time.