

Gail Rase

RE: ZEV Mandate and gas vehicle ban

Electric vehicles might be in our future, but I do not believe that the government needs to impose this legislation for that reality. This policy change has a single focus – electric cars at any cost. The hazards to the environment of the disposal and use of these vehicles in mass quantities has not been determined or predicted in models, nor the cost of charging these vehicles. Currently first responders and citizens have not received the training necessary to respond to emergencies with these cars, crashes, breakdowns, immersed in water (picture from recent hurricane in Florida attached jpeg), and cars catching on fire unexpectedly.

The dependence upon foreign countries to provide the raw materials for the lithium batteries used in electric cars, not to mention the environmental degradation in these countries to mine/farm the raw materials for manufacture of these cars. Relations with foreign countries is as undependable as our current power grid. Finally, I'd like to address the emotional, social aspect of this policy.

Americans value our freedom of choice. If only our government officials would let our system of hard work, ingenuity and capitalism to prevail our country will thrive and so will the people. You can accomplish this by not rushing in with legislation imposing a must have date of accomplishment at the expense of our citizen's health, finances and emotional well being . As technology and private innovation develop and thrive so will the electric car.

Most Americans want to be responsible to their environment, but the response by the Department of Ecology needs to be balanced including cost, effectiveness, dependability, and consideration of emotional well-being, financial feasibility and not jeopardizing the health and safety of Washington State citizens and first responders. I see NO NEED for such a policy change.

