

## Daniel Shier

I find it amazing that certain environmental zealots, especially the likes of California Governor Gavin Newsom and our own Governor Jay Inslee, our State Legislature, and several unelected bureaucrats are forcing the electric alternative to fossil fuels down our throats when (1) the electricity needed for EV's is so often generated using fossil fuels, (2) the environmental and human toll in mining and manufacturing batteries, wind generators, and solar panels is unforgiveable, (3) the financial cost is prohibitive, (4) existing electrical infrastructure is inadequate in most locations, and (5) end of life cycle - disposal and recycling issues - is expensive and wasteful.

Not often talked about is the fire and life safety issue presented by the current technology.

Example: lithium-ion battery fires happen and are virtually impossible to extinguish without letting them simply burn themselves out, completely destroying the device they're installed in and releasing large volumes of toxic fumes and compounds into the air and into the ground.

The time for electric technology to shine will no doubt arrive one day, but it isn't here yet, and in my opinion won't be for quite some time. Until then we're putting the proverbial cart way ahead of the horse.

Until the technology is perfected, we must continue our use of fossil fuels. To protect our country and our economy, fossil fuels must be readily available and most of all, affordable.