

Brandon Christensen

Thank you for taking the time to review my comments regarding the EV Mandate, gas engine and heavy duty vehicle ban. The ZEV mandate and ban on gasoline vehicles in my opinion is unrealistic and will hurt lower income families and those living in rural communities because EVs are not affordable. EVs are also not practical for those in rural communities since distances traveled are much greater and EVs do not provide adequate range and the infrastructure is not available for convenient and affordable charging. Getting the infrastructure available will be the key to making charging more convenient. Unfortunately there is a high cost to making this infrastructure available. I'm afraid that billions of investment will be needed to make EVs a viable solution and this will take decades to accomplish. Another problem caused by EVs is the amount of lithium, cobalt, manganese and other precious metals needed to manufacture the batteries for EVs. The process to mine these metals is not environmentally friendly. Some argue that this process is far more harmful to the environment than drilling for oil to make gasoline and diesel. My worry is that the precious metals on the earth are limited. There will undoubtedly be a fight to control these precious metals for economic gain. I'm concerned that Putin and Russia are trying to control Ukraine for many of these precious metals. The work Ecology is doing on the EV Mandate is irresponsible if it does not include freedom of choice for the consumer. Our country was founded on freedom. Freedom of choice and a free market system. Let the free market dictate the future of EVs. This will ensure that lower income consumers and those in rural communities have a choice that allows them to have affordable choices to consider. As the EVs become more viable the percentage of them on the road will grow. Please do not mandate that to happen thru regulation and banning sale of gas and diesel powered vehicles. Please encourage other low carbon solutions as well. Those solutions could include vehicles powered by hydrogen, renewable natural gas or plant based diesel fuels. Allowing and incentivizing other low carbon solutions will allow a greater choice for those of us working in the transportation sector that haul critical goods that provide income for our economy within the great State of Washington. You have a great responsibility to do this right. Please consider these things before making your decision about zero emission vehicles and banning the sale of new gasoline powered vehicles.