

Wayne Olsen

Dear Adam Saul,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the Department of Ecology adopting Advanced Clean Cars II (ACCII), the Heavy-Duty Omnibus Low NOx rule, and the fleet reporting requirement this year in Washington.

I strongly support implementation of these rules as soon as possible, as they are critical to reduce air pollution, improve public health, protect frontline communities, and increase access to the benefits of electricity as a transportation fuel. I am truly impressed with the State Legislature, our Governor, and you for teaming with California to set the example for other states as well as our federal government to reduce our carbon emissions. I am particularly in your cheering section rooting for the requirement for all car sales in the state to be electric or plug-in hybrid by 2035. The U.S. is a laggard in this revolution, as over 20 nations have already adopted varieties of this goal for total conversion to EVs by 2030 to 2040.

The most important reason to transition rapidly to all-electric highway transportation is carbon emission reduction. As a 30-year retired Naval oceanographer and meteorologist, followed by 9 years at Pierce College teaching these subjects, including climate change, I am convinced by the overwhelming scientific evidence that the world, meaning ALL of us, must take every opportunity we can to reduce our carbon emissions as rapidly as possible. The Paris Climate Accord international goals, our national goals, and State goals of 50% reduction of emissions by 2030 and at least net-zero emissions by 2050 must be achieved if we have ANY chance of saving the world as we know it for our descendants. These goals cannot be met without near-elimination of fossil fuel use in highway transportation.

As a new EV owner, I know that transitioning to EVs makes financial sense for the consumer as well. Other than the battery, it now costs car-makers much less to make an EV than an internal combustion engine (ICE) car. Thus, as competition among carmakers heats up, prices will come down within a few years and EVs ultimately will be less costly to buy than ICE cars. EVs have fewer moving parts to break, no routine oil changes, no tailpipe to emit NOx, and no catalytic converter to have stolen. I never go to gas stations anymore, and I normally charge my car in my garage overnight. I get about 4 miles per kwhr, which equates to about 105 miles compared to the normal cost of a gallon of gas. And I can get a full recharge at a fast level 3 station in about 18 minutes. Once our nation transitions to EVs, we will be less vulnerable to rapid gas price fluctuations and inflation caused by international events such as Russia vs Ukraine.

I applaud Ecology's efforts to lead the transition into an all-electric future and by doing so, ensure an equitable and just transportation future for Washington. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Wayne L. Olsen
Captain, USN (Retired)