Dear Ms. Jones

Please accept these comments on behalf of 350 Santa Fe in support of the Clean Car Rule proposed by the New Mexico Department of the Environment and the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board.

Adoption of the Proposed Clean Car Rule will have a number of desirable effects, including:

* Reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from cars, trucks and SUVs. These vehicles produce the lion’s share of emissions from the transportation sector, which is the second-largest contributor of climate-harming greenhouse gases in the state.
* Reducing emission of ozone precursors. Ground-level ozone causes or exacerbate respiratory health problems and is a major air pollution concern in Bernalillo County and other areas of the state.
* Increasing the fuel efficiency of vehicles, thus saving consumers money at the pump and reducing our dependency of oil imports.
* Increasing the availability of electric vehicles in New Mexico. Current supply of EVs is woefully inadequate to meet demand. This rule will help to increase the supply of such vehicles in the state, both increasing choices for consumers and facilitating the transition to renewable energy to power EVs.
* Providing credits to encourage increased delivery of EVs to New Mexico before the rule takes full effect in 2026. This will help automakers transition into the program, build momentum in the EV market, and make attainment of emission standards easier to reach.

As we experience the beginning of a record-breaking wildfire season in New Mexico, the devastating consequences of climate change are driven strongly and inescapably home. Bold action is needed at the international, national, and local levels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the most harmful effects of climate change now, while there is still time.

With our federal government at loggerheads over action to mitigate climate change, it is increasingly up to the states to take the steps necessary to bring down emissions. The California vehicle emission standards have proven their effectiveness and have been adopted by 17 states and the District of Columbia. It is time for New Mexico to join this effect to drive down air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles and ensure that New Mexicans can enjoy the economic and environmental benefits of the rising wave of electrification of the transportation sector.

We strongly urge the Environmental Improvement Board and the Air Quality Control Board to adopt this rule. Thank you for considering our views on this important matter.

Chris Mann

Legislative Coordinator

350 Santa Fe