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To: New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board

Date: 8 November 2023

Subject: Critical Considerations for Equitable Implementation of Advanced Clean Car II Rules

VIA ONLINE SUBMISSION

Dear Members of the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board,

I trust this letter finds you well and deeply engaged in the important work of shaping New Mexico's environmental policies. My name is Marc Powell, and I am a resident of our beautiful state, dedicated to both the well-being of our communities and the preservation of the natural wonders that make New Mexico unique.

It is with a spirit of constructive engagement that I write to you regarding the Advanced Clean Car II Rules. I applaud the Board's commitment to environmental stewardship and the ambitious effort to mitigate the effects of climate change through progressive transportation policies. Nonetheless, I am compelled to voice specific concerns that weigh heavily on my mind – concerns that I am sure are shared by many of my fellow New Mexicans.

The implementation of the proposed rules, albeit with noble intentions, risks unintended consequences for low-income households throughout our state. With a significant portion of our population living below the poverty line, it is imperative that we assess the socioeconomic ramifications of such policies. The upfront costs associated with electric vehicles (EVs) pose a substantial barrier. For many, this is not merely a matter of budgeting but a question of feasibility. Without robust financial mechanisms to alleviate this burden, we are at risk of exacerbating the divide between those who can afford to embrace cleaner technologies and those who cannot.

In this vein, the question of subsidies and incentives must be addressed with urgency and clarity. The role of state and national subsidies cannot be overstated in making the transition to clean vehicles a viable option for the average citizen. It is critical that the Board actively pursues the development of sustainable incentive programs that are sensitive to the financial realities of our residents, ensuring that no one is left behind in our collective journey toward a greener future.

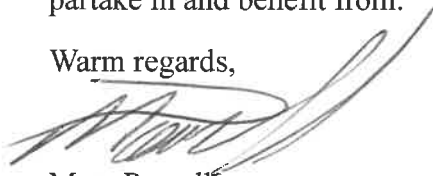
Additionally, the current state of EV infrastructure in New Mexico is a matter of considerable concern. Our varied geography and rural expanses require a comprehensive network of reliable charging stations. Without this, the adoption of electric vehicles becomes not a matter of choice

but of practicality. We must not only envision a future of clean transportation but also lay the foundational work that will bring this vision to fruition. Practically speaking, the lack of infrastructure means that the timeline, at a minimum, must be reworked.

Therefore, I urge the Board to embrace a balanced and inclusive perspective as we advance these rules. It is of paramount importance that the shift toward cleaner vehicles is not just an ecological success but also a beacon of social equity. I am eager to see New Mexico lead the way in demonstrating that economic inclusivity and environmental responsibility can go hand in hand.

Thank you for considering my perspectives. I am hopeful that, together, we can ensure the Advanced Clean Car II Rules pave the way to a sustainable future that all New Mexicans can partake in and benefit from.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Marc Powell', with a stylized, flowing script.

Marc Powell