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November 8, 2023

New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Dr. Suite N4050
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Subject: Concerns About Advanced Clean Car II Rules

Dear Members of the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed Advanced Clean Car II Rules in New Mexico. While I understand the importance of cleaner cars and protecting our environment, I believe these rules could be challenging for our state, especially considering our extreme poverty, vast rural areas, and the high cost of electric vehicles (EVs), as well as having detrimental effects on the already struggling New Mexican economy and the businesses within our state.

New Mexico is one of the poorest states in the U.S., and many families here struggle to make ends meet. We have a lot of rural areas where public transportation is limited or even non-existent. In these areas, owning a car is often a necessity. However, right now, most electric vehicles are pretty expensive, and they're not affordable for many people.

The reality is that, for most folks in New Mexico, getting an EV is just not an option because of the high price. If these new rules make it even harder to own a regular car, many people might be left without any good transportation choices.

I think it's important to find a way to make cleaner cars more accessible and affordable for everyone in our state. It would be great if we could consider the unique challenges we face, like our rural areas and economic struggles.

Furthermore, the proposed Advanced Clean Car II Rules, as I understand them, may place excessive burdens on local businesses, particularly those in the automotive industry, which is already dealing with the challenges of the transition to electric and cleaner vehicles. These rules could lead to increased costs for manufacturers and consumers, ultimately impacting the affordability of vehicles for New Mexicans. Such an outcome would be detrimental to the state's economic recovery, as many businesses are still recovering in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I'm not against protecting the environment, but I believe we need to find a balanced approach that takes into account the realities of New Mexico. Let's work together to make cleaner cars a possibility for all of us, without putting extra strain on our already challenging situation.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board reevaluates the proposed Advanced Clean Car II Rules and considers the potential consequences of these regulations on the citizens of New Mexico as well as our state's economy. A more collaborative approach that engages stakeholders and seeks to find solutions that promote both economic well-being and environmental sustainability would be in the best interest of all New Mexicans.

Thank you for listening to my concerns, and I hope we can figure out a solution that helps our environment while also being fair to the people and businesses of New Mexico.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'CZ', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Corrine Zajac-Clarkson, CPA