

# Holly Grimm

Electric vehicles (EVs) are increasingly recognized not just for their air quality benefits, but also for their role in protecting water resources.

One significant aspect of this is the reduction in the number of leaking underground gasoline storage tanks. Traditionally, gasoline stations store fuel in underground tanks, which over time can corrode and leak. These leaks can result in benzene, a harmful carcinogen, seeping into the water table and contaminating groundwater resources.

I am writing to express my strong support for Clean Cars and Trucks and Heavy Duty Omnibus standards to apply to the 2027 model year.

Nine other states have already embraced these standards. Cleaner cars and trucks are a critical tool in solving the urgent climate crisis, but they will also save New Mexicans billions of dollars by 2050 and prevent thousands of deaths and respiratory attacks. New Mexico-specific analyses have found that Clean Cars and Trucks would slash climate pollution by up to 139 million metric tons by 2050, the equivalent of the entire state's emissions in one year, making these standards among the most effective climate policies ever adopted in New Mexico.

They will also help New Mexico access millions in Inflation Reduction Act funding to boost EV infrastructure and make clean cars more accessible, affordable and convenient. In addition, a new study shows full adoption of Clean Cars alone would increase New Mexico economic activity by up to \$44 billion and add nearly 1,000 jobs.

The New Mexico studies also show that Clean Cars and Trucks standards will literally save lives in New Mexico, preventing 158 premature deaths and more than 76,000 cases of respiratory illnesses by 2050. These standards will allow broader access to these money- and life-saving vehicles for all New Mexicans.

The state should seize the opportunity to adopt these standards together in 2023 to get cleaner trucks and cars on our roads sooner and bring New Mexico back in line with life-saving pollution standards. Thank you for your consideration.