

Benjamin Gonzalez

Dear Members of the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board,

I am writing to express my deep concerns and reservations regarding the proposed Advanced Clean Car II Rules. While I wholeheartedly support the state's commitment to environmental sustainability and applaud the initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the adoption of cleaner vehicles, I believe it is crucial to take into consideration the unique challenges faced by low-income New Mexicans, the absence of sustainable state and national subsidies, and the current lack of reliable electric charging infrastructure.

New Mexico is a state with its own distinct demographic and economic challenges that differentiate it from states like California. As we compare New Mexico to California, we must consider that New Mexico has a lower average income and a higher percentage of its population living below the poverty line. The proposed Advanced Clean Car II Rules, while noble in their intent, may inadvertently place a heavier financial burden on the citizens of New Mexico compared to those in more affluent states like California. We must strive for environmentally friendly policies that are economically equitable and considerate of the unique financial constraints faced by New Mexicans.

In order to make the transition to cleaner vehicles more accessible to the residents of our state, it is imperative that we develop and implement sustainable state and national subsidies. While states like California have robust financial incentives to promote clean vehicle adoption, New Mexico lacks a comprehensive plan for such subsidies. These incentives are essential to reduce the financial strain on low-income individuals and families who aspire to make environmentally responsible choices. I urge the board to prioritize the creation of these subsidies as part of the Advanced Clean Car II Rules.

Furthermore, the lack of reliable electric charging infrastructure in New Mexico poses a significant barrier to the widespread adoption of electric vehicles. Our state's unique geography, with vast rural areas and limited population centers, demands a well-planned and extensive network of charging stations. Without such infrastructure, the transition to clean vehicles remains impractical for many New Mexicans. I implore the board to work on a strategic plan to expand and improve the charging infrastructure across the state.

In conclusion, I urge the Environmental Improvement Board to consider these concerns in the context of New Mexico's demographic and economic realities. While I support the transition to cleaner vehicles for the benefit of our environment, it is vital that this transition is attainable for all residents, regardless of their income or location. I hope that we can work together to create a more environmentally sustainable future that is accessible to everyone in our unique state.

Thank you for your attention to these important issues, and I look forward to seeing a more equitable and sustainable approach to the Advanced Clean Car II Rules.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Jack Gonzalez