

Dear Members of the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board,

I am writing to express my concerns and reservations regarding the proposed Advanced Clean Car II Rules, as a New Mexican working in the Automotive Industry for over 2 decades. I'm totally in favor of protecting our environment and support the state's commitment to environmental sustainability. I understand the need to address reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the adoption of cleaner vehicles. California might be ready for electric vehicles, but New Mexico is not. 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. I don't think New Mexico should be forced to drive an electric car or truck.

I understand and share the concern for improving air quality, reducing emissions, and combating climate change. However, the proposed rules, as they stand, may disproportionately affect low-income individuals and families. New Mexico has a significant population living below the poverty line, and these rules could inadvertently create a financial burden for those already struggling to make ends meet. The cost of electric vehicles, while decreasing, remains a substantial investment for many in our state. Without sufficient financial assistance, transitioning to cleaner vehicles becomes an unattainable goal for a large portion of the population.

Car buyers find it a challenge to find EV charging stations on the road, and people that live in apartments might not have a garage to charge in. In many cases it can take hours to charge the battery. The lack of reliable electric charging infrastructure across the state poses a significant obstacle to the widespread adoption of electric vehicles. This could affect the individuals that take road trips that need to travel a greater distance.

New Mexico's vast and often sparsely populated landscape demands a robust network of charging stations to provide confidence to potential electric vehicle owners. Without this infrastructure in place, the transition to clean vehicles remains impractical for many, especially in rural areas.

Thank you for your attention to these important issues, and I hope that we can work together to create a more environmentally sustainable future that is accessible to everyone in our state.

Sincerely,


Monica O'Malley