

Elizabeth Foster

Having an ag exemption for on farm equipment is appreciated but farmers and ranchers still need to get their product to market. This means being able to transport off farm or ranch. The weight of the batteries for electric trucks will impact farmers and ranchers in two ways. First, the bigger battery will need longer charging and delay delivery of fresh produce or require livestock to stay loaded on the truck or trailer while the battery is being charged. Secondly, the weight of the battery will reduce the amount of agricultural product able to be hauled do to limits in the ag exemption for CDLs. This will require additional trips to deliver product to market. More trucks on the road will add to the wear and tear of NM roads. This rule will reduce or limit my right to choose which vehicle I can purchase. There has not been enough outreach for this rule and I doubt the general public has had significant time to respond or participate in public hearings. There needs to be more public hearings in rural NM where this will have a greater impact. Two of the three hearings were in Albuquerque and one meeting was virtual. With the lack of broadband in some areas of the state, NMED has made it difficult to impossible for rural NM to participate and voice their concerns.