

Albuquerque NM

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits. I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed mandates for Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations in our state of New Mexico. While the transition to electric vehicles is indeed a commendable goal for a cleaner and more sustainable future, it is crucial to consider the unique challenges our state faces due to its size, rural nature, economic circumstances, housing shortages, and the necessity of upgrading our power grid.

Firstly, New Mexico is one of the largest states in the U.S., with vast stretches of rural and remote areas. Mandating the installation of EV charging stations without taking our state's geography into account would place an undue burden on businesses, particularly small ones. The cost of setting up and maintaining charging infrastructure in remote areas can be exorbitant, leading to increased operational costs for businesses in these regions. This, in turn, could result in higher prices for essential goods and services, disproportionately affecting low-income residents who are already struggling in our economically challenged state.

Speaking of economic challenges, New Mexico has long faced issues related to poverty and unemployment. Our state's poverty rate consistently ranks among the highest in the nation. Forcing businesses to invest heavily in EV infrastructure, especially in these trying economic times, could potentially lead to job losses and business closures, exacerbating the already grim economic situation.

Furthermore, New Mexico is grappling with a severe shortage of affordable housing. Funds diverted towards EV infrastructure mandates could be better utilized to address this pressing issue, providing shelter for our fellow residents and ensuring they have a safe and comfortable place to call home.

Another critical aspect to consider is the state of our power grid. Transitioning to electric vehicles requires significant upgrades to our electrical infrastructure to support the increased demand for electricity. These upgrades come at a substantial cost and cannot be implemented overnight. Mandating EV charging stations without a corresponding investment in grid infrastructure would likely result in power outages, hindering the daily lives of New Mexicans and impeding economic activities.

In conclusion, while the promotion of electric vehicles is a laudable goal, we must carefully consider the unique challenges facing New Mexico. Mandates for EV charging stations may inadvertently harm our state due to its size, rural character, economic hardships, housing shortages, and the need for significant power grid upgrades. Instead, I would urge policymakers to develop a more flexible and realistic plan that takes into account our state's specific circumstances while working towards a sustainable and cleaner transportation future.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will take these concerns into account as you make decisions that will impact the future of our great state.