

Roger Cox

We (NM) really don't need to be the lead in this sort of initiative. NM air quality is generally excellent and the time and money would be better spent on improving forest and fire management, or maybe free fireplace inserts. In addition, the most recent news suggests that people are discovering the inconvenience factor and expense for the current generation of EVs is fairly high, and that is leading to declining sales. Manipulating the market to "incentivize" people to buy these less satisfactory vehicles will not end well. We already drive a hybrid and I'm strongly considering buying a plug-in hybrid for our other car, but I'll be doing that without any unnecessary government motivation. Feels a bit too much like "we-know-what's-best-for-you" misguided government mandates that left such a bad taste in the mouth over the last few years. Let's let the auto industry improve the EVs and reduce their costs to the point so that the average vehicle buyer would naturally want to purchase them. They aren't that far away from that point now. The implicit refueling time, infrastructure fragility and hassle tax seems to be the real sticking point and forcing people to waste many hours refueling doesn't seem to be the best way to win friends and influence people. Let the engineers do their job and let the market naturally work.

It is also unlikely the required EV share meets the specific needs of NM drivers. I see EVs as a logical replacement for gasoline commuter cars, much as econoboxes were popular during the gas crisis of the 1970s. We are a fairly rural state, and commuter cars aren't in as much demand for those folks, so the target EV market share for specifically NM should logically be lower. And again, just let the damn market work...a million drivers are smarter than any given government agency or especially any advocacy group.