

glenn wikle

Please pass the CA ZEV clean car rules.

I see this as a face-off of subset of car dealers versus the existential climate crisis which could fundamentally change the environment on planet earth. I say a subset of car dealers because I believe General Motors and Ford are ahead of the curve. The dealers I have heard from during the hearings sell Honda and Toyota brands which are a couple years behind in electrification.

It would be easy to write off those anxious car salespeople as a minority, opposed to the needs of the rest of us. You could call them a well-funded special interest. On the other hand, they are part of our community. They are our neighbors and I don't like to see anyone suffer needlessly.

However, I believe they will not suffer. We're going through a once in a lifetime transition to new transportation technology. While the salespeople admit that EVs are the transportation of the future, they fear they won't have competitive vehicles to sell in 2027 and 2028.

This fear comes from looking backward, not looking forward.

These new rules were negotiated by the automakers who have bet their future on zero emissions vehicles. Today, they are rolling out new models so that, three years from now, when these rules take effect, the range of EV models will be much wider.

These rules provide a predictable car market so automakers can meet their own zero emission targets.

Will dealers have to adapt? Yes. More salespeople must learn how to sell EVs. They will have to install more chargers. Their maintenance ads will have to sell tires instead of oil changes. Their popular hybrid cars will come with charging plugs.

Between hybrids and EVs, every dealer will have popular models that are easy to sell. And car salespeople can be very persuasive. I know they can sell any car on their lot.

We are all in this together. New Mexico children need these rules to be healthier and all of us should play our part so we can meet New Mexico's climate goals and enjoy a livable climate future. I hate to say it, but the tradeoff is some New Mexico businesses adapting to change versus stepping back from a climate future that is so scary that most people are afraid to think about it.

Members and Commissioners, I ask you to approve the clean car rules this week. (And you tell your grandchildren, tomorrow, that you served them well.)