Linda Burchfiel

The Advanced Clean Cars and Advanced Clean Trucks Rule is good for New Mexico's air quality, for New Mexico business and tax revenue, for car owners' wallets, and for the world's climate health.

I have lived in Northern VA for many years, an area with terrible ozone and particulate matter from car emissions. Especially during the summer, we were warned not to be active outside because the air was so harmful. Even in New Mexico, communities living near transportation corridors suffer from bad air, and this Rule would finally provide those communities some relief.

When I got to Santa Fe I had a plug-in Volt that I loved but it could not handle the snow. I started shopping for a plug-in SUV but could not find one in New Mexico. I had to go out of state, a huge hassle for me, and the Subaru dealer in Santa Fe lost my business and New Mexico lost my taxes.

Lifetime costs for EVs are very low. I charge overnight, electricity is cheap, and the price is steady so I can budget for it. And charging at night means I soak up all those night-time kilowatts that utilities generate but can't sell. If this Rule is adopted, and many EVs are using night-time electricity, utilities would be in better supply/demand balance and could operate more efficiently and at less cost.

Another advantage to EVs – less maintenance. Fewer parts to maintain, fewer oil changes, simpler diagnostics.

Last but the most important of all, this would reduce New Mexico's GHG emissions, lead the way for other states and countries, and help stave off the worst effects of climate change.

A final note: The move to EVs is necessary but will produce winners and losers. Car dealers could take advantage of this opportunity or they could try to block it. Just think that if the horse and buggy industry had had a lobby as strong as car dealers, we would still be riding horses and driving buggies.