

# Paul Biderman

Comments on proposed clean car and truck standards rule  
November 14, 2024

My name is Paul Biderman. I've lived in New Mexico since 1970 and have been a licensed attorney since arriving. From 1983—86, I served as Secretary of Energy and Minerals for the entire administration of Governor Toney Anaya. I currently volunteer as vice-chair of 350 Santa Fe, an organization dedicated to eliminating emissions of carbon into the environment.

I support this rule primarily because it's an essential step toward meeting our obligation to our children and future generations. To continue emitting carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere at the current rate will lead to increasingly severe and irreversible impacts on our lives and those of our descendants. Transportation emissions are a major reason that our country is the largest per capita source of greenhouse gas emissions. And New Mexicans profit enormously from fossil fuel production, making our responsibility all the greater.

Your proposed rules take an important step in the right direction. My wife and I have owned a Chevy Bolt for over three years now. It was not that much more expensive to buy than a gas-powered car, especially after we obtained our federal tax credit. Both those and new state tax credits are likely to be available when this rule takes effect, making these vehicles even more affordable for anyone needing to buy a car. The federal incentives will even apply to used EV's. And a rapid increase in the number and speed of charging stations is coming as well.

We have found that our maintenance costs have been almost non-existent, except for tires; and of course, we have never had to stop at a gas pump for this car. We instead installed a charger in our driveway, where our solar panels provide our car's fuel. The car also performs wonderfully.

Some opponents of this rule will argue that EV's cost more and should not be forced on us. But the costs of allowing New Mexico's climate to succumb to climate change will be greater still-- in drought, heat, agricultural losses, flora and fauna extinction, proliferation of invasive species, and declining property values, to name just a few. And every attempt to reduce emissions will have opponents claiming economic loss—"try something else," they tell us – for almost every proposed solution.

But the climate crisis is resulting from multiple sources of greenhouse gas emissions. It can only be resolved by addressing all of those sources. Your rule addresses the emission of greenhouse gases from transportation in New Mexico.

You are on the right road—please stay on it.

Paul Biderman, Santa Fe