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11/8/2023

New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board  
310 Old Sant Fe Trail  
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Subject: Concerns About Advanced Clean Car II Rules

Dear Members of the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed Advanced Clean Car II Rules in New Mexico. While I understand the importance of cleaner cars and protecting our environment, I believe these rules could be challenging for our state, especially considering our extreme poverty, vast rural areas, and the high cost of electric vehicles (EVs).

New Mexico is one of the poorest states in the U.S., and many families here struggle to make ends meet. We have a lot of rural areas where public transportation is limited or even non-existent. In these areas, owning a car is often a necessity. However, right now, most electric vehicles are pretty expensive, and they're not affordable for many people.

The reality is that, for most folks in New Mexico, getting an EV is just not an option because of the high price. If these new rules make it even harder to own a regular car, many people might be left without any good transportation choices.

I think it's important to find a way to make cleaner cars more accessible and affordable for everyone in our state. It would be great if we could consider the unique challenges we face, like our rural areas and economic struggles.

I'm not against protecting the environment, but I believe we need to find a balanced approach that takes into account the realities of New Mexico. Let's work together to make cleaner cars a possibility for all of us, without putting extra strain on our already challenging situation.

Thank you for listening to my concerns, and I hope we can figure out a solution that helps our environment while also being fair to the people of New Mexico.

Sincerely,

Justin Clark Bent

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Clark Bent". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "J" and a prominent "B".