## Liv Slagle

Enforcing policies that limit the options on vehicles for New Mexicans is not the way to resolve environmental issues. Lowering vehicle emissions is important, but New Mexicans need the freedom to find a vehicle that fits their lifestyle needs. When 10.6% of the state's population lives on rural, undeveloped reservations, implementing an arbitrary demand for electric vehicles makes no sense. A bill has been passed to fund more charging stations across the nation, but where would these stations conveniently be located for the people living on this land? This strategy may be advantageous in more populated areas and in big cities like Albuquerque, but for the large population of the state that lives outside of the metropolitan area, this would cause more harm than good by not having access to charging stations. Additionally, the increase in electric vehicles diminishes demand for oil and gas, which is the industry that employs over 15% of our state's population. By pushing this proposal, the working class of New Mexico is being threatened. New Mexico also has one of the highest poverty rates in the state, so assuming that people would be able to afford all of the expenses that coincide with having an EV is ignorant at best. There are people in our state with no access to running water or sewage systems. With all of this said, this amendment should not be a priority of our state's government while we still have people struggling to have basic needs in the 21st century.