

Nathan Duckett

There is no world in which we exist where New Mexicans, who live in diverse and rural areas of this state, should be required to only have EVs as an option for vehicle purchase. For the average New Mexicans who don't live in urban areas the fact that EVs do not promote freedom of movement to traverse long stretches of rural roadways that cover this state and connect us to larger urban centers in Texas, Arizona, and Colorado. Their battery tech is not where it needs to be yet, the infrastructure of charging stations and improved charging times does not promote efficient nor safe travel, and the cost of the EV prices out a majority of New Mexicans who are some of the poorest people in the nation. If we would just stop for a moment and collect ourselves from the fury of trying to save the planet through the pockets of New Mexicans who are already at a financial disadvantage because of the growing cost of Energy (thanks to the ETA), the growing cost of home ownership, the lack of and removal of economic base jobs in this state, the failing healthcare system that is being decimated by the state's tort laws and high medicaid and medicare users...Passing EV mandates is only going to make it harder for New Mexicans to live their every day lives. Have you been to the Navajo Nation? Do you know that a large part of the population there does not have electricity? Do you know that nearly 75% of those on the reservation do not have a job? We cannot force these rules on our indigenous people when they do not have the means nor infrastructure to support it. Then let's consider the impacts to our auto dealers who have very clearly expressed the current failing EV markets. Passing rules like this will decimate our auto dealer jobs. We cannot afford to risk the 14,000 auto dealer jobs...how will we replace them? Government subsidies to retrain this work force as well? Do the right thing. We are not California, we do not want to be California mostly because we cannot afford to be California. Let New Mexicans choose the vehicle that fits their life and needs best. SAY NO TO EV MANDATES!