Chris van Dyck

Our governor is once again skirting the democratic process by using executive power to require automakers to meet strict quotas for electric and hybrid vehicles sent to New Mexico for sale. Unelected regulators are considering an unfunded mandate proposed by the governor through executive action. All involved know full well that this action would never pass a public vote. That's because New Mexicans want and need affordable passenger vehicles capable of traveling long distances, and trucks capable of hauling big loads. Government mandates and tax rebates wouldn't be necessary if people actually wanted EVs. They'd sell themselves. The Environmental Improvement Board and the Air Quality Control Board should heed the concerns being raised by New Mexicans and reject the proposed standards and let New Mexicans live and travel freely. The growth in the EV market will hinge on their practicality and affordability and the free-market choices of consumers, not unfunded government mandates. The current minimal utilization of EVs will grow when charging stations are readily accessible and the prices of EVs are comparable with standard vehicles, even without state and federal tax rebates. That's how markets work in a free enterprise system. We need a viable path to EVs that a majority of the public supports.