

David Melloy

As a resident of New Mexico, I understand and share the concern for improving air quality, reducing emissions, and combating climate change. However, the proposed rules, as they stand, may disproportionately affect low-income individuals and families. New Mexico has a significant population living below the poverty line, and these rules could inadvertently create a financial burden for those already struggling to make ends meet. The cost of electric vehicles, while decreasing, remains a substantial investment for many in our state. Without sufficient financial assistance, transitioning to cleaner vehicles becomes an unattainable goal for a large portion of the population.

Moreover, the success of any environmental initiative hinges on the availability of sustainable subsidies. Without a clear plan for state and national subsidies to incentivize the purchase of clean vehicles, the burden of the transition falls heavily on the shoulders of ordinary New Mexicans. Sustainable incentives are crucial to making clean vehicles accessible and affordable for all, and I implore the board to explore and implement such programs in tandem with these rules.

Furthermore, the lack of reliable electric charging infrastructure across the state poses a significant obstacle to the widespread adoption of electric vehicles. New Mexico's vast and often sparsely populated landscape demands a robust network of charging stations to provide confidence to potential electric vehicle owners. Without this infrastructure in place, the transition to clean vehicles remains impractical for many, especially in rural areas.

I encourage the Environmental Improvement Board to consider these concerns and work towards a more inclusive and holistic approach to the Advanced Clean Car II Rules. While I support the transition to cleaner vehicles for the benefit of our environment, it is vital that this transition does not leave behind the most vulnerable members of our society and that the necessary infrastructure and financial support are in place to ensure equitable access for all New Mexicans.

In addition, New Mexico currently has a \$0.17 per gallon gas tax that is appropriated to the New Mexico Department of Transportation to build and maintain roads and bridges. Currently EV owners are exempt from paying this tax but share the same infrastructure as traditional ICE vehicles. What is New Mexico's plan to ensure that users pay their fair share of this tax as well as a plan to ensure that roads are maintained adequately as EVs tend to weigh 20% more than traditional vehicles?

Thank you for your attention to these important issues, and I hope that we can work together to create a more environmentally sustainable future that is accessible to everyone in our state.