



New Mexico State Senate

State Capitol Santa Fe

COMMITTEES:

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- Tax, Business & Transportation

MEMBER:

- Committees' Committee
- Indian, Rural & Cultural Affairs

SENATOR BENNY SHENDO, JR.

D-Bernalillo, McKinley, Rio Arriba, San Juan &
Sandoval-22

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November 15, 2023

New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board
Attn: Pamela Jones, Board Administrator
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502
Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board
P.O. Box 1293
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Dear Respective Board Members,

I am writing to you to express my concern on the proposed Advanced Clean Car II rules that are under consideration. As a State Senator, my district represents parts of Bernalillo, McKinley, Rio Arriba, San Juan and Sandoval counties. Most of my constituents live in rural areas and have to drive great distances for work, school, food, medical care and the basic needs of every-day life. In addition, some of my constituents lack the basic infrastructure that we take for granted every day such as water, electricity and internet services.

First of all, let me say that I am not opposed to electric vehicles and Clear Car rules, my concern is the pace at which we want to transition. Although, we should all be concerned with climate change, I feel the approach you are considering is not right for New Mexicans at this time. First and foremost, there is a significant cost disparity between a traditional vehicle and an EV. Most studies indicate that the cost difference is between \$5,000 - \$10,000 more for an EV than a traditional vehicle. In addition, very few have the means to install a home charging station, where the average cost to install a home charging station ranges from about \$2,500-\$5,000 depending on if they also need to upgrade their electrical panel in their home.

As an example, when the state passed incentives for home solar installations, I don't believe any of my native american constituents in the rural areas had any installed. The upfront costs, the capacity and the rural electric cooperatives rules never made this an ideal situation. The majority of the people that benefited from these laws are the one that could afford to invest in the upfront cost and those that live in the city and are served by the Investor owned utilities.

My concern is that this shift to the proposed Advanced Clean Car II rules will have the same result as our solar initiatives for the rural parts of New Mexico. The infrastructure needed to make this viable in the rural parts of this state will require a significant investment, we are a long way from there. I have constituents that don't even have running water and electricity, the last thing on their mind is owning an electric vehicle.

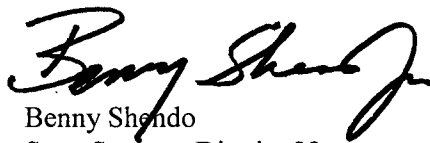
As the Chairman for the Senate Tax, Business and Transportation committee, I am concerned about the state road fund, where \$.17 of every gallon of fuel purchased goes to the state road fund to build and maintain our roads and bridges throughout New Mexico. As we transition to EVs, what will be the appropriate taxes, or fees associated with this use.

Moreover, I want to emphasize that implementing a mandate without considering the unique circumstances of sovereign tribal lands would pose adverse effects. Sovereign tribal lands has its own complexities and must be approached with careful consideration. It is essential to involve tribal-leaders stakeholders and communities throughout New Mexico in this decision making process as it will affect their people and territories.

Instead of rushing into a mandate, I believe that more time and preparation are necessary to ensure a successful transition. This includes extensive infrastructure developments to support widespread adoption of electric vehicles. In addition, I feel we need time to prepare individuals and communities across the state for this transition. This involves raising awareness about the benefits of electric vehicles, addressing concerns about the charging infrastructure and developing programs to support disadvantaged New Mexicans in purchasing EV's and home EV charging stations. Education, outreach, subsidies and incentives should all play a role in facilitating a smoother transition.

As you can see, there are several concerns that I feel need to be addressed before the state puts in place a requirement that will not allow a New Mexican to purchase a vehicle based on their needs and budget. Therefore, I respectfully urge the board to consider delaying the proposed rules until these items have been addressed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benny Shendo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "B" and "S".

Benny Shendo
State Senator, District 22