

# Joan Brown

Clean Vehicle Rule Hearing 2023—EIB and Air Quality Board

Sister Joan Brown, OSF—Executive Director, NM Interfaith Power and Light

I am Joan Brown, a Franciscan sister and executive director of NM & El Paso region Interfaith Power and Light. Our community of thousands of people of faith and conscience and over 100 covenanted faith communities work to address climate justice through education, action, energy efficiency projects, solar installation--land, water and food projects and by offering voices of conscience in public policy advocacy.

Climate change, the largest ethical and moral challenge of our time. It calls us to live out the basic command of Love Neighbor which is every person and creature. This crisis also affects those who are most vulnerable are already suffering whom we walk with. We know that driving current vehicles is the second largest contributor to carbon emissions in our state and affects our neighbors.

We believe the deeper conversion to love neighbor and care for the common good are values underlying these proposed rules. We are grateful the state is industriously working on charging stations, including rural areas. When I look at family pictures of my ancestors in rural Kansas in the early 1900's I see them in old cars on very muddy paths. The lack of roads did not stop them from driving but encouraged road improvement---I believe that movement to EV vehicles encourages infrastructure.

Because our faith communities walk with and help those who suffer economic inequities with assistance for gas, utilities and food when needed we are encouraged that those challenged with volatile gasoline prices and auto maintenance could save between \$14,000-\$16,800 dollars during the life of an EV vehicle and that financial incentives can make purchase in par or less than conventional vehicles as we go forward---all while addressing growing air quality and health related problems that cause asthma, heart problems and lost days of school and work.

At IPL we have weighed the challenges the rules carry and we believe we can address these. Above all, we feel an intense responsibility for the health of our communities and the call to address climate change. Pope Francis, who will attend the UN Climate meeting in Dubai at the end of this month just published a climate document following the 2015 document on care of our common home. He stated "With the passage of time, I have realized that our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point...We will feel its effects in the areas of healthcare, sources of employment, access to resources, housing, forced migrations, etc."

In 2015 before the UN Paris agreement, he stated that we were on a "suicidal path", recently he called our path "madness." We as humans must search our souls for how we are to move to collective conversion and the true meaning of being human beings. The Clean vehicle rules are one step we can take as a community to move toward greater life and dignity.