

Ken Hughes

I am Transportation Chair for the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club and proud owner of a (used) electric car and an electric bicycle.

As we speak there are thousands upon thousands of fires going up and down our streets and highways. These of course are under the hoods of our internal combustion engine vehicles. But the combustion, or fire, in each of these vehicles is only about 30 percent efficient, meaning the rest leaves the car to pollute the air that we breathe and contribute to climate change gases.

That's why adoption of the Clean Cars and Clean Trucks rules is so important. Moving toward electric vehicles offers New Mexico a great chance to transition away from fire belching engines to clean running motors.

I am writing to urge you to adopt Clean Cars and Trucks and Heavy Duty Omnibus standards to apply to the 2027 model year.

Six other states have already embraced these standards. Cleaner cars and trucks are a critical tool in solving the urgent climate crisis, but they will also save New Mexicans an estimated \$44 billion by 2050 and prevent thousands of deaths and respiratory attacks.

New Mexico-specific analyses have found that Clean Cars and Trucks would slash climate pollution by up to 139 million metric tons by 2050, the equivalent of the entire state's emissions in one year, making these standards among the most effective climate policies ever adopted in New Mexico.

They will also help New Mexico access millions in Inflation Reduction Act funding to boost EV infrastructure and make clean cars more accessible, affordable and convenient. In addition, a new study shows Clean Cars alone would increase New Mexico economic activity by up to \$44 billion and add hundreds of jobs.

The New Mexico studies also show that Clean Cars and Trucks standards will literally save lives in New Mexico, preventing 158 premature deaths and more than 76,000 cases of respiratory illnesses by 2050.

These standards will save drivers money at the gas pump, increase availability of zero-emission vehicles for consumers, and promote broader access to these money-saving vehicles for all New Mexicans. The state should seize the opportunity to adopt these standards together in 2023 to get cleaner trucks and cars on our roads sooner and bring New Mexico back in line with life-saving pollution standards.

Thank you for your consideration.