

Subject: Public Hearing Comments

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From: DoNotReply@delaware.gov

To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources)

Comments on 2022-R-A-0011: Low Emission Vehicle Program

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Organization: Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (CDCC)

Comments:

Secretary Garvin: As a small business advocacy organization the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce has a number of concerns with the Advanced Car Plan initiative - the Low Emissions Vehicle Program. The comments we hear most often from our business members are: Why are we doing this? Why are we moving so fast when we do not have the infrastructure in place to support it, mainly enough electric supply to support all the vehicles? Why are we not letting our market drive this initiative? Why are we not really building up our electric supply? As you know, all businesses large and small are struggling with many issues from labor shortages to supply chain shortages to a lack of capital to run and expand their businesses. Also, as you know, in Kent County our public transportation system is not strong and our county is very rural, which adds to our transportation challenges. Going to Electric Vehicles is a huge concern to our businesses, especially our small businesses. Their employees have to get to work so when they cannot afford an electric vehicle or when they cannot charge their vehicle, or they cannot afford to fix their electric vehicle how will they get to work? If business has a problem with one of their operational systems such as their HVAC, plumbing, electric, or computers - what happens when their technicians cannot get to them right away due to their electric vehicle not being charged or their employees (the HVAC, plumber, electrician or computer technician) could not get to work because they could not charge their vehicle. This issue results in a disruption of the business's operation which also results in a loss of revenue. And, in our state our fire fighters and our ambulance attendees are all volunteers, so what happens when our volunteers cannot get to the station because they could not charge their electric vehicle? Lives will be lost - property will be destroyed. These scenarios may seem to be a stretch to you, but they are real. These are the unintended consequences of this regulation. We have to have an ample supply electric to charge these vehicles, and right now we do not. We do not produce enough of our own electric. Let's focus on this first - then let's focus on electric cars. The manufacturers are going to continue to make EV's - we all know this is the wave of the industry. Our dealerships will get them – it will happen! We just need to take a step back. We need to put the horse in front of our cart. We need to focus on the infrastructure and our electric production - then we can focus on EV mandates.