

**Subject:** Public Hearing Comments

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**From:** DoNotReply@delaware.gov

**To:** HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources), Mark.Nardone@delawarenaturesociety.org

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

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Organization: Delaware Nature Society

Comments:

Delaware Nature Society urges Delaware to adopt the Advanced Clean Cars II regulations in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to address the state's poor air quality, especially in communities that are already overburdened by pollution. More than 80 percent of our residents live in counties that do not meet EPA's clean air standards for ozone. Though we all pay the price of air pollution in health outcomes and healthcare costs, communities of color and low-income communities are especially impacted. Often sited near major transportation routes, residents suffer increased medical risks and conditions from vehicular pollution such as pediatric asthma. This is simply unfair. If we find it difficult to reduce our dependence on motor vehicles and to reduce the number of vehicles on our roads, we can make them cleaner. ACCII will mitigate pollution impacts by allowing for more electric vehicles--cars that do not emit greenhouse gases or particulate pollution. That is a benefit to human health, and it is necessary to reduce the greenhouse gases that cause climate change and sea-level rise. This is especially important in Delaware, which is the lowest-lying state in the nation (by average elevation). Our state and federal governments have heard the warnings of climate scientists and have recognized the need to end sales of new gasoline-powered light-duty vehicle by 2035. We will not achieve 100 percent electric car sales by 2035 unless we commit to strong, steadily increasing, year-over-year sales requirements that achieve at least 75% percent zero-emission vehicle sales by 2030. The ACC2 rule will put states on this path and it will go a long way in helping to meet our goals for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as stated in Delaware's Climate Action Plan. It is our right as a state to adopt air quality standards that exceed the federal standard. California has led the way in regulating air pollution, and Delaware, with lower air quality overall, should follow. Clean air, like safe water, should be considered a natural right, one to be protected at all costs so that we may all live longer, healthier lives. Thank you for your consideration. Mark Nardone  
Delaware Nature Society