

Public Hearing Comments

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To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources) <DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov>

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

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Organization:

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak, although I do wish the opportunity was made more public with greater public input. I think it is safe to say that the majority of Delawareans do not live in California by choice. As such, legislation drafted and enacted by Californians for Californians should never be considered to be applied to Delaware. The climate, topography, geology, roadways, culture and population of California are much different than Delaware. What works for California doesn't necessarily work for Delaware just as similarly as what works for Florida doesn't necessarily work for Delaware. Any change that impacts the ability to enjoy our constitutional rights, such as being compelled to purchase a certain kind of product should not be taken lightly. The decision should be grounded in peer-reviewed science (and no, climate change is NOT settled science, but we are here to debate legislation, not ideology), clear, proven and unimpeachable statistics and most importantly - the will of the people. The argument to enact this amendment has none of those. Recent history has shown that our current electric grid in any state and every state, cannot handle the current load. Every year Delmarva asks Delawareans to cut usage or risk brownouts. California, as our model here has thousands of blackouts every year impacting millions in addition to their brownouts. I often wonder how they manage to flee wildfires when they cannot charge their EV's. For Delaware, it could be a hurricane impacting our inability to evacuate coastal areas. How can we honestly expect to double or triple the load without impact? Furthermore, we have shown vulnerabilities in protecting our grid. How many times have we been warned by whistleblowers, or read in the news where hostile states have attempted to hack our grids? Terrorist activities? If the power goes out, at least you can still siphon gas in an emergency. Along the same lines, 80% of the resources for the creation of batteries is owned by a country that has been making increased hostility overtures towards us. This cannot be overlooked or ignored. I am not anti-EV and as a owner and generator of solar power, it would make sense for me to have an EV as a local commuter vehicle. However, an EV for longer hauls which I frequently take makes no sense. The beauty is that as an American who has enjoyed our free economy - I have a choice. Because I have that choice and have researched this, I am aware that with an EV median range of 230 miles, the average Delawarean could not make it from Wilmington to Delmar and back in one day (not including impacts due to climate control such as heat or AC). As such, an EV just doesn't work for me. The people need to hear it in terms like this. They need to know that they probably can't drive from Delaware to the Outer Banks in one day. They need to know there is a very good chance their car will die while being stuck on I95 traffic on a cold day - that's important information that would very likely impact their support of this amendment. If EV's work for everyone, everyone will adopt them without being compelled, right? Thank you for the opportunity to speak my concerns and while my belief is that these concerns will be ignored, I beseech you - please do not take away my freedom of choice. Let the market and the will of the people decide and do not force us into what is clearly misguided legislation.