

## 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:

I spoke at the public hearing last night, but apparently spoke too fast. Here is a written account of the statement given: Hi, my name is Jennifer Peasnall. Delaware is my home. I grew up in Long Neck, from elementary school to high school, and received a degree in the Environmental field at the University of Delaware. After doing much research and hearing misinformation being spread from a certain side on this subject, I am even more invested in supporting ACC2. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to speak at those "town halls". I quickly discovered that they were only there to spread misinformation. I think it's important to note this, because it means many Delawareans have been lied to about what ACC2 is and what it entails. I know the reason for passing ACC2 is to help increase air quality, which it will. Less gas-powered vehicles mean less noxious fumes in our air. However, I also want to emphasize a different point. The primary reason why I, a young Delawarean, am advocating for ACC2. I'm in support of this mandate because of climate change and the irreversible, cataclysmic impacts it will have on my home. The IPCC report released in the beginning 2023 summarized 5 years of climate research done by professional, accredited climatologists. It found that we are on track to be at or above a 2.7-degree Fahrenheit increase globally by 2030. Many scientists say that a temperature increase of this kind is the "point of no return" and most agree that if we reach this temperature increase, we will see extreme, irreversible damage, not just to our ecosystems, but to the lives of human beings. 2030 is only seven years away. DNREC, NASA, and the American Geological Institute websites all show the same map--what sea level rise will look like for Delaware by 2100. It's terrifying. On the low end we can expect sea level rise to be about a foot and a half. On the high end, five feet. This means Long Neck, the place where I grew up, will be gone. Most of Lewes will be gone, Bethany will be gone, Rehoboth and Dewey will be gone. That's 77 years away. And that's just sea level rise. That's not even talking about the mass droughts, increased storm surges, and the devastating wildfires, famines, and diseases that will occur (and are already starting to occur) due to the climate crisis. We need ACC2. This is an integral part of a solution for poor air quality, but also for a crisis that will change Delaware as we know it. ACC2 is beneficial to our health, our wellbeing, and especially, our economy. It will allow Delaware to be above the curve. EVs are coming. They are the way of the future. People want them and manufacturers want to make them. However, Delaware is inadequately prepared for a future with EVs. ACC2 will help provide funding for Delaware to incorporate vital EV infrastructure. It will help residents, like me, be able to afford EVs. It will also, hopefully, make things a lot more equitable across the board. I could talk more about the benefits of ACC2 but honestly, I just want to leave you with this: time is running out. ACC2 ensures us that we will be on our way to a future with less fossil fuels burned in Delaware. Honestly, I don't even know if ACC2 is enough to help deter the climate crisis, but it is a start. We need this. My future and the future of those younger than me need this. Thank you.