

Comments for public hearing:

My name is Sue Vatnick. My husband and I live in New Castle County, between Interstate 495 and 95, near Philadelphia Pike. Our home is subject to the air pollution and soot that comes from the traffic on these highways.

New Castle County received a D in ozone levels on the 2023 State of the Air report card issued by the American Lung Association. Transportation is currently the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Delaware. Passenger cars account for 61% of the total emissions from the transportation sector in the state. Emissions from vehicles contain harmful air pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrous oxide and particulate matter. We must continue to lower tailpipe pollution in Delaware, for the sake of the public health and to put the brakes on climate change.

To do this, we need to transition to clean, electric transportation starting with passenger cars and light trucks. The problem is, there are few, if any options to buy Electric Vehicles in Delaware. Adopting the Advanced Clean Cars II rules is an important step to lowering tailpipe emissions by accelerating the number of zero-emission cars on our roads.

Zero Emission Vehicles are our future. Car manufacturers have already shifted solidly towards EVs, investing billions of dollars in the transition to EV technology. They want to make EV's because they are simpler and easier to manufacture. There are only 20 moving parts in an EV compared to 2000+ moving parts in a combustion engine vehicle. The auto industry is not going to turn back now.

It is imperative that we adopt the Advanced Clean Cars II rules so that we do NOT get overlooked and left behind by the auto industry. They are already targeting and will continue to target those states that have already adopted or are in the process of adopting ACC2. We need to send the message that Delaware wants to be part of this EV market, along with our neighboring states Maryland and New Jersey. The adoption of the ACC2 rules will entice private EV charging companies to invest in developing the necessary infrastructure in our state. There will be new and good job opportunities as this EV market develops. Clean, electrified transportation is already a fast-growing source of high-paying jobs.

This is the time to be forward thinking for the state of Delaware and for the future of the children of Delaware. Adopting the ACC II rules will help us begin the transition to electric vehicles. This, in turn, will help reduce the air pollution coming from major highways that families such as mine are having to live with. We need to start this transition now so we can plan and manage the transition over the next 10-15 years.

Please adopt ACC II and help improve the air quality in my community and other communities in Delaware that are disproportionately impacted by vehicle pollution.