

Public Hearing Comments

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

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Organization:

Comments:

While I do not represent any particular organization, I do speak for many seniors on fixed incomes, residing as I do in the Bon Ayre over 55 plus community in Smyrna. Fear is a powerful emotion that influences most people, sometimes for good. But too often, fear that drives public policy results in unintended consequences that are highly negative, since the big picture is usually neglected (consider the impact of the recent COVID lock-downs and school closings). I am concerned that this is the case in pushing forward with the EV Program. Apocalyptic climate change is a tool of fear. The earth has had much warmer periods over its 4.2 billion year history, including since life evolved, and none of them have resulted in extinction events. Listening to those promoting this apocalyptic view reminds me of religious fundamentalists who use fear to manipulate people into following their doctrines. Fear too often works, but it is hardly ethical as a tool of manipulation. The reality is, even if everyone in Delaware switched to EVs tomorrow, it would have an no noticeable impact on climate change, since climate change is a global issue, not a local one. But it would place a huge burden on the middle and lower classes, and especially those on fixed incomes. Costs of EVs, charging locations and capacities, diminished repair shops and fuel stations for gasoline vehicles (which would increase costs for non EV users), and at home charging capabilities would all make life more difficult for those who don't have the income to handle the increased costs. I know that the environment lobby is aggressive in seeking to move us away from fossil fuels. Yet there is a bigger picture. Energy must be abundant and affordable for all of us. Any plan to address environmental concerns without this consideration will be burdensome and for some cruel. The government should never, ever choose winners and losers, especially when the losers are the least likely to benefit from a program and will most likely be harmed by it. Our citizens should never be harmed by a government program - only helped by it. This EV Program will not help everyone. It will harm many people that our elected leaders are sworn to benefit. It will do practically nothing to address global climate change. It will be a bridge too far. Take your time. Make changes at a pace that we all can handle. Do no harm. Thank you.