

Subject: Public Hearing Comments

Date: Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 8:19:41 AM Eastern Daylight Time

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

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Comments:

I've spent my career as a manufacturing engineer. From my experience, human nature is to hastily gravitate to new technology as an answer to all their problems, but this is rarely the case. Electric vehicles may look attractive as a low-emission solution, but given time unforeseen problems will surface that will necessitate keeping Internal Combustion technology readily available. By attempting to aggressively eliminate IC technology as part of a political movement, the State economy and return-on-investment for individual owners will no doubt suffer. A better move would be to offer State incentives for EV purchase and use, while allowing IC sales technology to co-exist. This until needs for infrastructure are better understood and the new technology is fully tested over a 15-20 year cycle. Long-term needs for EV infrastructure include more than proper charging locations. It includes power generation supplementation, EV disposal and recycle structure and locations, hazardous response program updates and first responder training, EV localized service capability and integration into existing IC service centers, establishment of the aftermarket part industry, EV owner education, insurance program updates, building code updates, considerations for State highway winter management. These types of changes require time to become established as new technology is experienced, adapted and understood. This is why an incentive program is better than a short-sighted State mandate. People also need to see that this technology can indeed meet their needs and Return-on Investment. Not all technologies are universally applicable. IC technology and support offerings in the State of DE are a major component of the State economy .