

Subject: Public Hearing Comments

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From: DoNotReply@delaware.gov

To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources), njones@kirkwoodautocenter.com

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

Name: Norman Jones

Phone: 302-540-3958

Email Address: njones@kirkwoodautocenter.com

Organization: Kirkwood Auto Center

Comments:

I don't believe a mandate is necessary for several reasons that I have listed. 1) Let the marketplace control this initiative. If we force this on everyone and the manufacturers have not addressed all of the concerns of owning an electric vehicle, they will be forced to purchase an inferior product (price, range anxiety, availability of charging stations, availability of vehicles) 2) This mandate will also drive up the price and availability of internal combustion engine vehicles. 3) Training - I currently serve on the advisory board for New Castle County Vo-Techs and Del Tech and they have concerns about how they will implement this into their programs due to lack of space, instructors, curriculum and funding. 4) I was involved with your original emission program and there was training around the state to certify Automotive Technicians. Will there be a similar program for current Technicians on how to diagnose and repair electric vehicles. Without a formal training program, there will be sizable job loss and long delays to get your vehicle repaired. The local Tesla dealer is already telling customers that they can't service their vehicle for a month. This is only going to get worse as the car count grows. 5) How are we going to handle charging stations in condo, apartment and inner city locations. In downtown Wilmington, residents already have to jockey for parking spots and most of the time it may not be in front of their residence. How will they be able to charge their vehicles. 6) Will this cause our electric rates to go up due to the improvements and added demand to the electrical grid that will be needed. 7) Do all households have the ability and finances to add a charging port to the homes ? 8) As a business owner of an automotive repair center in Delaware I will need to retrain our current work force, hope that I can find new employees that are properly trained as I need them, invest in tooling and install charging stations. As the former president of our local automotive association, I can tell you that several shop owners in the state are planning to eventually exit the industry due to the cost that is going to be required. With less choices for the consumer, this is going to drive up higher labor rates and longer delays to have your vehicles serviced. I am not opposed to the electric vehicle initiative, but I feel that without proper planning and not mandating that it takes place by a certain date, it will hopefully allow us to address several of the issues and concerns of the industry and the consumers that are being forced to purchase these vehicles. Thank you, Norman Jones Kirkwood Auto Center