

**Subject:** Public Hearing Comments

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

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Organization:

Comments:

I am opposed the the Low Emission Vehicle Program for the following reasons: First, it will significantly increase the cost of transportation for ordinary citizens, and will have an especially harsh impact on low income citizens. With the average electric vehicle costing around \$66,000 (nearly \$20,000 more than the average gas vehicle), many will struggle to find affordable transportation. Second, Delaware does not have sufficient electric vehicle infrastructure to support a ban on gas and diesel vehicles. Third, electric vehicles are not "zero-emission". They simply shift the emissions to power plants that generate the electricity. And due to the intermittent nature of wind and solar power, neither of those sources can ever replace electricity generated from fossil fuels or nuclear power. There is also the problem of disposing of the batteries when they inevitably die (and the batteries contain toxic chemicals). Fourth, climate change is not a serious threat. The climate change alarmists have been telling for more than 50 years that environmental destruction is just around the corner, and yet life goes on. Gas powered cars are not destroying the planet and tiny changes in temperature (which are largely due to natural causes) are not a threat to Delaware. Fifth, the proposed regulations will significantly limit consumer choices. In what is said to the land of free, We the People are sick and tired of politicians or regulatory agencies micro-managing our lives to the point of telling us what kind of car to drive. This regulation will deepen the political and cultural division in our state. Most electric and hybrid vehicles are either crossovers, four-door sedans, or (less commonly) pickup trucks. Not everyone wants to drive one of those types of vehicles. Sixth, electric vehicles have significant limitations. Cold weather can reduce the vehicles' range by up to 36 percent. Towing can dramatically decrease the range of electric vehicles. Seventh, the long-term durability remains unproven. I have two gas powered cars that are more than 25 years old and are still running fine. I know other people who have 20, 30, and even 40 year old gas vehicles that are still working well. Will the batteries in electric vehicles hold up to decades of use? Based on my experience with lithium batteries in other applications (cell phones, laptop computers, and hand tools), I am deeply skeptical. I have seen batteries in these devices go completely dead, or experience dramatic decreases in run time, in as little as 5 to 10 years. Eighth, many of the materials used in the battery production come from countries (such as China and Congo) that have poor human rights records and are not always friendly to the United States. It is neither ethical nor sustainable to mandate the use of products that rely on child labor and oppressed people working in slave-labor conditions. In contrast, the United States has vast resources of fossil fuels which can be produced domestically and provide high-paying jobs to American workers.