

Subject: Public Hearing Comments

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From: DoNotReply@delaware.gov

To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources), sasblow@aol.com

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

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Comments:

To Whom It May Concern: I am opposed to the mandate by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) to ban the sale of new fuel-powered cars, trucks, and SUVs in Delaware. In my argument, I would reference the article by Michael Heberling in April of 2022 in which he reminds us that According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), an electric vehicle requires six times the mineral inputs of a comparable internal combustion engine vehicle (ICE). EV batteries are very heavy and are made with some exotic, expensive, toxic, and flammable materials. He notes that the primary metals in EV batteries include Nickel, Lithium, Cobalt, Copper and Rare Earth metals (Neodymium and Dysprosium). The mining of these materials, their use in manufacturing and their ultimate disposal all present significant environmental challenges. Ninety percent of the ICE lead-acid batteries are recycled while only five percent of the EV lithium-ion batteries are. He continues by reminding us that surface area disturbed by oil drilling is relatively small since the oil is extracted from under the ground. In contrast, many of the materials prominent in the clean energy revolution are obtained through open-pit horizontal mining which is extremely damaging to wide areas of the environment. Nickel, a major component of the EV batteries, is found just below the topsoil in the Rainforests of Indonesia and the Philippines. As a result, the nickel is extracted using horizontal surface mining that results in extensive environmental degradation: deforestation and removal of the top layer of soil. It should be noted that Rainforests play a major role in "fighting climate change" by removing Carbon Dioxide from the atmosphere through photosynthesis. According to the Wilson Center, "small-scale mining in the DRC involves people of all ages, including children, obligated to work under harsh conditions. Of the 255,000 Congolese mining for cobalt, 40,000 are children, some as young as six years." These are just a few of my reasons why I am opposed to your push of EV by limiting the sale of fuel powered cars. Electric vehicles are just a "superficial commitment." I would prefer that we take the author's advice and take a good look at the entire life cycle of clean energy from raw materials to disposition before being mandated to accept this technology as our only resource. Thank you.