

**Subject:** Comments - Proposed EV Mandate

**Date:** Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 8:58:22 AM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** THOMAS ROBERSON

**To:** HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources)

**CC:** Spiegelman, Jeff (LegHall)

Good Morning,

I am writing to express my concern about mandating the exclusive sale of electric vehicles (EV) after ANY given date.

While I believe that the eventual switch to predominantly EVs will happen, my study of the issue leads me to the following conclusions:

- There does not appear to be an adequate plan for recharging vehicles. This adversely impacts the state economy and residents who will have to find a place to charge vehicles.
  - It is one thing to wait a couple of minutes in line while someone fills their gas tank, but imagine having to wait the roughly 20 minutes required to charge each EV in line. Please remember and factor in that there are a number of people in the state that live south of the canal and commute 50 to 75 miles to work in Wilmington and surrounding cities. Their plight will be exacerbated in the summer time when out-of-state tourists will have to compete for scarce charging stations in order to make their way to the beaches. Both these situations will potentially delay workers and tourists.
  - The delays mention above will also impact footprint requirements for charging EVs. There will need to be more room allocated at charging stations for the queue of vehicles that will pull in for charging. That mean the WaWa's and Royal Farms, and others will have to grow even larger and take up even more room. That may be possible in rural areas, but imagine trying to find adjacent real estate in built-up areas.
  - Mandating EV sales will also impact highway construction. Turn lanes on busy roads will have to be lengthened to accommodate the number of vehicles waiting to turn into charging stations.
  - I have grave concerns about the capacity of the electrical grid to support EV charging. If everyone comes home and plugs their car in at roughly the same time, will we have brown-outs or black-outs?
- There also appears to be a persistent problem about accidents involving EVs. The laudable drive to lighten the vehicles to extend vehicle range has apparently led to vehicles that do not protect passengers as well and other models. There is also a problem with repairing damaged vehicles. The rate at which EVs are totaled after an accident is significantly higher than conventionally powered (gas/diesel) vehicles.
- Some vehicles must be available for use more quickly than others. If service levels are to be maintained, there will need to be more police cars and ambulances to maintain existing service levels.

Let me reemphasize that I believe a move to EVs is inevitable as and when the problems outlined above are addressed. Toward that end, I recommend the following actions be undertaken by the Sate of Delaware:

- Begin a comprehensive transportation analysis to determine where charging stations will be required, how large they will need to be, and how they will impact projected traffic patterns.
- Create a 50% tax credit to offset the price of installation of residential solar panels IF the home is also modified to accommodate EV charging.
- Create a center of excellence within the University of Delaware system to study battery technology, solar power, and related issues. The goal of this effort should be to improve the storage capacity of batteries, lessen the environmental impact of making, using, and disposing of batteries, and licensing associated technologies to firms that will produce associated systems in Delaware.

My bottom line is that, while I oppose the proposed mandate, I believe that there are concrete actions that can be undertaken by the state that will lead our citizens to make the personal choice at an appropriate time to purchase,

use, and enjoy owning an EV.

Sincerely,

Tom Roberson  
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