

Subject: California's vehicle ban puts my job at risk

Date: Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 8:59:51 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: David Socolofsky

To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources)

Members of the DNREC,

As an employee at the Delaware City Refining Company and a former resident of California who relocated to the mid-Atlantic two years ago, I am deeply concerned by your efforts to enact California's ban on gasoline and diesel vehicle sales. Policy and rules written in Sacramento, for Californians, run counter to the best interest of Delawareans and fail to reflect the realities of our infrastructure, vehicle purchasing preferences, and lifestyles. By any measure, Delaware families, like mine, will face higher costs from California's ban and fewer choices for vehicles that comfortably and affordably meet our own distinct-from-California-needs. In fact, polls show a vast majority of Delawareans oppose the adoption of California's ban, largely due to cost concerns and a desire to maintain personal choice.

This policy—to outlaw vehicles that run on liquid fuels—is meant to put me out of work. This is a direct assault on my livelihood and family, and it's an affront to the decades-long investments liquid fuel producers have made to support Delaware's economy and energy security throughout the mid- Atlantic.

Banning sales of gasoline and diesel vehicles also lacks environmental credibility. A ban ignores the fact that today's vehicle fleet, dominated by gasoline and diesel vehicles, is the cleanest and most efficient in history. Running with California's logic that only tailpipe emissions matter, a ban would reduce the potential for further improvements to gasoline and diesel vehicles by disqualifying them outright. This policy would outlaw sales of flex fuel sedans that run on Delaware-made gasoline and American-grown biofuels, but it would have no problems with massive electric SUVs charging their Chinese-made batteries with coal-fired electricity. Whatever you call it, such policy is certainly not "environmental," and it stands to benefit China to our own detriment.

In your effort to copy California, you are gambling with Delaware jobs and family budgets. There is no excuse for speeding ahead without assurances that (1) California's ban—on California's timeline—is even feasible for us given our electricity infrastructure; and (2) that it will not impose massive costs on families via higher utility rates, much more expensive new and used vehicles, and lost opportunities in well-paying, unionized industries. Please stop this folly by ending the initiative or at least requiring a feasibility study or other research first.

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