

Subject: Low Emission Vehicle Program

Date: Friday, May 26, 2023 at 12:56:07 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: constance higgins

To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources)

CC: constance higgins

Dear Theresa Newman,

The following is my public comment in regards to the EV program being considered. Please reconsider confirming for our state, Delaware. The program may not outlaw gas vehicles, however the overall plan will eventually eliminate them because of the zero emissions requirements. The only way to make a car zero emissions is to make it electric. As a Delaware citizen and voter, this basically is a mandate. As a state we should not follow California in anything. They have serious economic and welfare issues.

My main reason against the program is the hard facts about EV being Dirty Green Energy. Electric Vehicles present several areas of concern not being addressed by our government. Economically, minorities will be negatively affected as the program moves into phases. EVs are expensive and supply wise not always available. Home residents have to cover the costs of installing the outlet necessary, and the space, along with the increase in electric bills. Also, the convenience of travelling over the the mileage limit forces you to plan with charging stations in mind. I have heard not all stations work and cars vary on time necessary to charge. EVs may be the way of the future, but our country is not prepared.

The second reason is based on the batteries placed in the cars. The public is not being educated truthfully about the minerals used and how they are acquired. Cobalt is mainly derived from the Congo in Africa from mines. The majority of mines are Chinese owned. Also, child labor is used frequently(our own US Dept. of Labor has recognized this). We will be supporting China even more by increasing EV sales. Recycling the batteries is not being done properly and if they are left in the landfill they will leach into our precious drinking water. California which our state is considering to model is known for dumping their solar panels into the landfills and the chemicals from the solar panels are leaching. Another area of concern with the batteries which is being voiced by Fire Departments is that the fire created by the batteries is extremely high heat and requires a lot more water to put out than a regular car battery, therefore water is wasted not conserved(Eight firefighters ultimately spent seven hours putting out the fire. They also used up 28,000 gallons of water — an amount the department normally uses in a month. That same volume of water serves an average American home for nearly two years.

By comparison, a typical fire involving an internal combustion car can often be quickly put out with approximately 300 gallons

of water, well within the capacity of a single fire engine....news from a fire in Florida).

So I am requesting Delaware reconsiders passing this EV program until we wait several years to see improvements in the batteries, suppliers, cost and leave the choice with the residents of the state of Delaware, not the government.

Thank you for your time,

Constance Higgins

Georgetown DE resident