

**Subject:** Public Hearing Comments

**Date:** Friday, May 26, 2023 at 7:22:26 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** DoNotReply@delaware.gov

**To:** HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources), caveneckmom@verizon.net

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

Name: Kelly Pepper

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Organization:

Comments:

I want to take a moment to let you know that I oppose the legislation regarding low emissions vehicles and the potential mandates that will adversely affect me and my community. I am part of a family owned and operated funeral business. Vehicles and the immediate need for a vehicle are a vital part of our daily operations. Our industry is available 24/7, 365 days a year to serve our community at their time of need. We also operate a trade service where we serve other funeral home in Delaware, nationwide, and outside the country. This mandate would be detrimental to our industry in having to depend on an electric vehicle to carry out our daily operations. We travel many miles in a day for everyday business, lead families in funeral processions, transport loved ones to the crematory, transport loved ones to the airport for transfers elsewhere, etc. Many time we are on a time constraint and will have no opportunity to stop and charge a vehicle. I cannot imagine a funeral procession where anyone, including the funeral home, had to stop to charge a vehicle on their way to a cemetery that is out of the area. Families are hardly able, at times, to afford a funeral for their loved one (national average \$9,000 +). A new hearse is upwards of \$80,000 already. If funeral homes have to purchase electric vehicle there will be no choice but to pass this cost of operations onto families. Delaware has poor infrastructure already and charging stations are limited at best in Sussex County. There is no way there will be enough charging stations in our area for the benefit of all. I realize we need to do more to control emissions, however, this is not the way. There is a whole other ugly side of the electric vehicle industry, their batteries, etc. that no one wants to address. We can't stick our head in the sand regarding the ugly side of that industry and ignore its importance just as well. I implore DNREC and the Governor to think about how this will affect EVERYONE in the state and to not follow the lead of California (which is already being run and managed inefficiently), nor that of the noisy squawking here in Delaware. The thought of mandating only electric vehicles is irresponsible at best. Again, I ask the DNREC and the Governor to not continue this path. This will be detrimental to our small state and hurt many who are already struggling. This will hurt businesses that are already struggling to stay ahead, and again would be terribly detrimental to the funeral industry. Thank you for your consideration.