

**From:** [Garvin, Shawn M. \(DNREC\)](#)  
**To:** [Marconi, Angela D. \(DNREC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Zero-Emission Vehicle Standards  
**Date:** Monday, February 6, 2023 8:31:28 AM

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**From:** Mary Ellen Gonski <tmegonski@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2023 4:46 PM  
**To:** Garvin, Shawn M. (DNREC) <Shawn.Garvin@delaware.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Zero-Emission Vehicle Standards

Dear DNREC Secretary Garvin,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Electric Vehicle Mandate, of which I strongly oppose. I am disappointed that Delaware would follow California in any regulatory action. California is hardly a model state and one that I would certainly not want to live in, considering its high taxes, deplorable homeless conditions in its large cities and its inability to supply power to its residents, to name just a few reasons.

I have been a resident of Sussex County for a little over a decade, having relocated here from Carroll County, Maryland. My youngest son attended and graduated from Indian River High School. My first impressions of Sussex County were of the lovely beach towns and the unaffordability of being able to purchase a house close to the beach. My eyes were further opened to the vast income spread of county residents when I began attending athletic events at the high school and meeting my son's peers. Do you really think that most residents living a few miles west of the beach will be able to afford an EV?

Through my church, I became involved as a volunteer in an ESL program in Frankford, DE. My students were adults. The men worked predominantly in the landscaping business and many of the women worked as housekeepers in the fancy Ocean City hotels or in nail salons or chicken processing plants. Without a robust public transportation system in Sussex County, how are these people going to get to work? Many depend on food pantries for basic necessities. Are they going to be able to afford an EV?

Ostensibly, EVs are touted by environmentalists who are concerned about the state of our planet. I read mostly non-fiction on a variety of topics and often white privilege is woven into the subjects about which I am reading. Are you aware of the environmental damage that will be caused by the mining of rare earth minerals necessary for the EV batteries? Are you aware that many of the rare earth minerals will be mined in China or developing and third world countries, where the majority of their populations are people of color? Where is the outrage of the environmentalists and white privilege disparagers? Do you share these concerns when it comes to EVs?

A more practical concern is the question of how an EV will perform in an emergency situation. I live in a community along the Route 54 corridor. If I plan poorly and have to run an errand on a summer weekend, it is next to impossible to pull out of my neighborhood due to the traffic. Then there is the slow crawl along Route 54 to get to the store. How are EVs going to help us all get off the coast in the event of an emergency evacuation? There is no space in our car for an extra EV battery to replace the one that has run out of charge like there is for a gas can with a few gallons of extra gas should we run out before getting out of danger. Finally, on a personal note, my children live in MA, OH and NC and some at points in between. We drive to visit them. Do I need to hope that there are charging stations along the way and add this charging time to my trip? Or maybe I should plan to fly now, thereby driving

several hours to an airport and then hopping onto a plane that hopefully lands close to my final destination and uses jet fuel in the process, which I believe is made from fossil fuels and thereby produces some harmful emissions?

I implore you to consider these points when you decide the fate of your EV mandate, especially since you are not giving Delaware residents the option to vote on an issue that will affect every one of us.

Please do not approve the radical EV mandate and instead consider drafting one that more closely meets the needs of Delawareans.

Thank you,

Mary Ellen Gonski