

From: [Garvin, Shawn M. \(DNREC\)](#)
To: [Krall, Kyle \(DNREC\)](#)
Subject: Fw: Important message.
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:13:43 PM
Attachments: [Governor draft.docx](#)

From: ecbennett@aol.com <ecbennett@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2023 10:43 AM
To: Garvin, Shawn M. (DNREC) <Shawn.Garvin@delaware.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Important message.

Forwarding copy of e-mail sent to governor. Two main points: Kill the Electric Vehicle mandates and not the drivers on Delaware highways.

-----Original Message-----From:
ecbennett@aol.com
To: John.Carney@delaware.gov
<John.Carney@delaware.gov> Sent: Mon, Feb 20, 2023 3:26
pm Subject: Important message.

I have enclosed information about two critical issues concerning Delaware. Your attention is greatly needed without delay for resolution.

Thank you,

Everett Bennett

There are two major concerns going on in Delaware that need immediate attention. The first is that the government is trying to force feed a bad idea on the constituents. The second is Delaware's negligence that is killing citizens.

First, there are reports that Delaware is trying to mandate the use of Electric Vehicles on the populous. The report goes on to say that these mandates follow such mandates of California. If that is the case, people should move to California rather than force it on Delawareans. People are leaving California in droves as one report indicated that 340,000 left California in 2022. The electric vehicle might work well for commuting in a metro area, but in general, they are quite a problem otherwise. Here are some comments that do not favor electric vehicles.

Modern electric vehicles are range-limited due to small capacity of batteries. They have long charging times which could be several hours and that is, if you can find an electric source. Putting fuel in a vehicle only takes a few minutes. It is difficult to plan trips because of not knowing where charging stations are located and allowing charging time to get back on the road. The process of producing and disposing of Lithium batteries is NOT environmentally friendly. The vehicles are very expensive to purchase and maintain. One report I saw indicated that it costs **\$23,000** to change a battery. Maintenance and service are also expensive. The batteries are very heavy such as 450 pounds which means extra weight is being hauled around. Cold winter weather causes problems for the batteries. I understand that people have died when stranded in snow with not enough power to run the heater. Highway driving range is much less than city driving. Heavy loads cause high consumption in energy consumption, such as pulling a trailer. An Electric Vehicle can't be the only car in your household. It cannot fulfill all of one's transportation needs. Another concern is that if everyone had an EV and plugged it in at night, the consensus is that the power grid would not be able to handle the extra loads. Additionally, there have been several reports about how electric vehicles are a total failure for farming. Further, a history is being established where the EV starts a fire and burns.

Delaware needs to **trash the idea** of force-feeding EVs on the population. It is not a satisfactory solution as it is expensive and does not serve many transportation needs. It is time to stop wasting time and assets on such a notion.

Now for a much more important topic which needs immediate attention. I am a lifelong Delaware resident and I started driving with tractors on the farm at age five. I have been driving a lot of miles and years and have driven everything from scooters to tractor trailer trucks. Never have I experienced the deplorable conditions caused by Delaware negligence as I have over the last year. It is as if Delaware has ordered the police to stand down with regards to enforcing its own motor vehicle laws.

I drive the speed limit and that is a hazard for the idiot drivers. One report on Facebook was ***"If you are going to drive the speed limit, just stay home."*** They talk about staying out of the fast lane as they don't want to be slowed at all. The speed limit is exactly the same in both lanes. Where it becomes extremely dangerous is making a left hand turn from the highway. First, one has to get in the left lane in preparation for the turn. As the vehicle is going the speed limit in preparation for the turn, the "fast

lane cars” are honking to get out of the way. It seems to be a life threatening event just going on the highway. It is worse with trying to cross from a side road with cars are going 80 MPH. Recently, I drove four miles in the Milford area which was mostly on Route 1. Every car that I encountered was speeding along with three cars running stop signs and one running a red light.

From my observations there are four flagrant violations: Speeding, using handheld devices while operating a motor vehicle; running STOP signs and running RED lights. (That is crossing the hold line after the light has turned red.)

Speeding: Speeding is against the law in Delaware It seems that almost every vehicle is not only speeding, but speeding aggressively fast. I drive a Tahoe and I have had four cars pass me going so fast that the air buffeted my vehicle which was already going 55. I did the math and it indicates that if a car is one mile behind you comes up and passes a car doing 55 and is a mile ahead while the 55 car drive three miles, the speeder is doing 73 mph in a 55 zone. I would guess that the average speeder is doing 70 to 75, while many are going faster. I have seen a car going 64 in a 45 zone. I have seen a car in Milford going 35 in a 25 zone. (indicated by roadside radar signs)

These people seem to drive in packs as they jockey to get ahead of the other cars, rapidly switching lanes to get ahead of other speeders and then getting back in the fictitious “Fast Lane.” It resembles watching a NASCAR race in Dover. As one looks in the rear view mirror and sees them coming, one can only watch as they speed by. Why do people speed? It is because of Delaware negligence with not enforcing its own laws. While there are permanent speed limit signs that indicate “Strictly Enforced,” in reality, there is “No Enforcement.”

Because of the high number of people (165) that were killed last year, Delaware announced the joke of the year. It was stated that strict speed limits were to be strictly enforced. The joke was that it was to only be for **two weeks**. Plus, it was only to be for **three** highways. Personally, I did not see even one enforcement action. What I did see was the speeders going along their merry way as fast as they normally do.

Use of Handheld devices (i.e. phone) while driving is also against the law in Delaware: This is crazy. Because my vehicle is higher, I can see people with the phones on their lap, just texting away. Sadly, I have seen cars passing me at a high rate of speed in left lane while the driver has their head down toward their lap. It is frightening. There was an accident South of Dewey, where a young female was in left lane speeding and texting. The traffic slowed ahead as it was approaching Dewey and the young person collided with vehicle in front of her which pushed that car into the two cars in front of it.

Four vehicles were involved and the young lady died. It is beyond belief how many people ignore Delaware Law and believe they have every right to do so. However, with no enforcement, why not? There is a FaceBook page that encourages drivers to take pictures of license plates while driving. The person posts the picture with their name and the location where they saw the tag. I included an example of one such picture taken in heavy traffic. The warning signs about handheld violations have now been turned off, not that it matters because no one paid any attention to them.



Running RED lights: Not coming to a complete stop at a RED light is illegal in Delaware. This is becoming all too frequent. I am now expecting to see at least one red light runner every time I go on the highway. People just blast on through, which means they cross the white hold line after their light turns red. Some years ago, a young girl proceeded on her green light to cross at the intersection where WaWa is now in Milford. A tractor trailer didn't slow for the red light and proceeded to crash into the girl's car, killing her. As if that wasn't horrific enough, the girl's mother was in the car behind her and witnessed the tragic event. But, then again, there is no enforcement. One only gets caught if something happens. A perfect example of yet another death happened on Sunday (Feb 12) in Felton. A person ran a red light killing the person in the front passenger seat of a car that was turning on a green light.

Running STOP signs: Not coming to a complete stop at a STOP sign is illegal in Delaware. People are NOT stopping for STOP Signs. Many don't even slow down. Again, it is now expected to see about 3 to 5 STOP sign runners on every trip. I have been very active in the 4-H program including working at Camp Barnes for the 4-H encampment. A few years ago, one of the campers was in a car hit by someone running a STOP sign and was killed. I never found out exactly how the accident happened, because the young girl was stopped at the STOP sign waiting for traffic to clear when another person ran their STOP sign and ran into her car. Her brother was also in the stopped car but was able to get

out. The sign indicates **STOP**. That means come to a complete stop, check traffic both ways and then proceed with caution.

These are the four main violations that I see every day. There are others as well. I have had people pass me in "No Passing" zones with the double yellow lines and then speed of on their merry way while I am going the 40 MPH speed limit. Their tactic is that they come up and ride on your bumper and then blast by when they get tired of going the speed limit. People cutting in front of you when there is no room and you have to hit the brakes. Typically, when you look in your rear-view mirror, there are no cars behind you and if they had waited maybe four seconds, they could have pulled out with no risk for either driver. Recently, I was behind a tractor trailer. I quickly noticed that the trailer had no license plate, no brake lights and missing a mud flap.

Why have speed limit signs if there is no enforcement. I remember spot radar teams and airborne surveillance to catch speeders. Today, there is nothing. The current signage indicates that one will be ticketed for using handheld devices, but have since been turned off.

Something needs to be done about this *urgently*. Instead of wasting time and assets on a "pie in the sky" electric vehicle idea, how about starting to save lives with getting the traffic slowed and the phones put down along with having people observe RED lights and STOP signs.

With 165 deaths last year, a person was killed on Delaware highways every 53 hours on average. So far this year, the same number of people has died as last year for same period, so, there is no improvement. Saying that there is going to be strict enforcement for two weeks on three roads without ANY enforcement is totally a bad joke.

Further it is getting worse by the day. Yesterday, (Friday 17th) I had a lady run a STOP sign from a side street pulling out in front of me while she had a phone in her left hand holding it next to her ear talking away as I was slamming on my brakes to avoid a collision.

My advice is to take this letter seriously and stop the carnage with "Strictly Enforced" methods on the highways and stop wasting time for Electric Vehicles. Saving lives is much more important.

Further, abandon the idea of shoving Electric Vehicles on Delawareans. There is a video on FaceBook of an electric pickup that is stranded along road with a dead battery. (The post has a huge amount of negative comments about how stupid this is.) In this case, the pickup is carrying a gas powered generator in the back. Driver is using the generator to charge the vehicle while waiting for an

extended time for battery to charge before he can continue. Can't anyone see the lunacy in this? I have added two pictures from video to show the generator in back with plug in front charging.

